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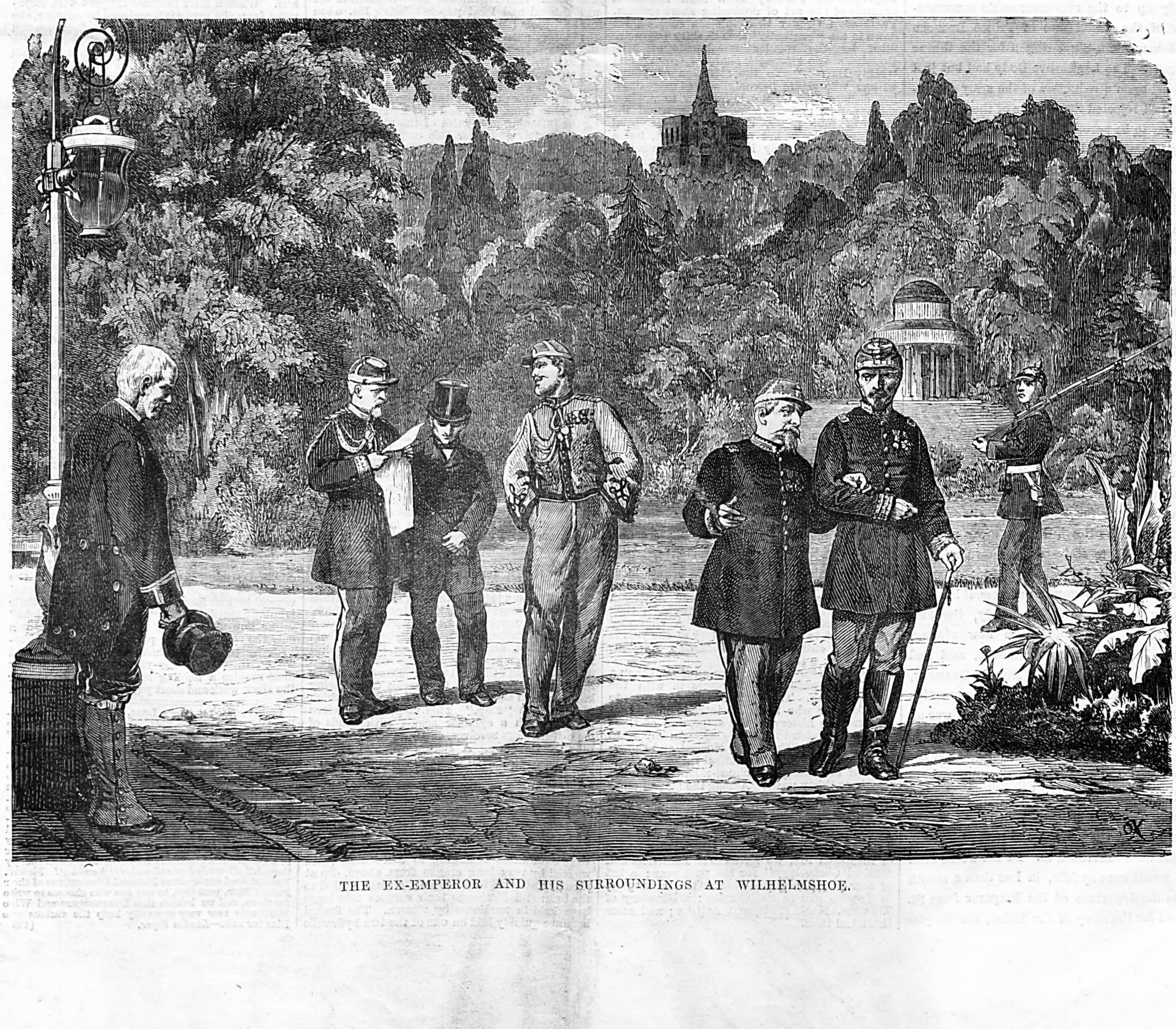
FROM THE TUILERIES TO WILHELMSHOE.

The clever Prussian artist, Herr Otto Knille, who has contributed many war sketches to this and other illustrated papers in England and Germany, filled a page of his note-book with the view which we present below while the leaves were still upon the trees; but in all other respects the illustration of the ex-Emperor in captivity is as true to fact upon the 31st of December as it was two or three months ago. Napoleon III. is still at the Schloss near Cassel, and continues to watch with melancholy earnestness the progress of the conquest of France. On this last day of the year, while the sands of the three hundred and sixty-fifth day are running out, we may be certain that the imperial captive—brooding and reflective man as he is—looking back over the months that have gone by since the first of January, will contrast his own fortunes and the positions of France at the two periods, and take mental note—not for the first nor indeed for the first hundredth time—of the extraordinary course of events from the beginning to the end of the year. To-morrow will be New Year's Day—a great festival in France. It is the morning of presents, and friendly calls, and family meetings and congratulations. It is the day when, for nearly twenty years, Napoleon III. has been wont to receive the ambassadors from foreign courts at the Tuileries, generally with an expression of cordiality and goodwill intended to be conveyed to their respective government. On the first of January, 1870, every word which the French Emperor addressed to the gentlemen of the Diplomatic Body assembled in Paris was an assurance of fraternity and peace. Never a year has dawned since the battle of Sadowa in which Bonaparte had so little anticipation of war. He seems, indeed, to have grown somewhat tired of the watch that had been maintained between France and Prussia for the last four years. His hands were full of home politics. He was in the midst of momentous changes which he knew would fully occupy his attention for the next twelve months. He was, indeed, eager for a truce with the Count Von Bismarck, and quite early in the year he availed himself of the friendly offices of the late Lord Clarendon as a mediator of peace between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin. He offered to reduce his army contingent if King William would do the same, but the King's Minister refused. This is a bitter memory for the ex-Emperor. He knows now what he did not see with sufficient clearness then, that the toils of the giant Power were closing around him, and it behoved him to beware. He knows now what it meant when King William, addressing his Parliament at its prorogation in May, congratulated the Deputies on the fact that the military organization of the North German Confederation was at last complete. To determine resolutely upon going to war, as the Emperor did on the first of January, 1859, is a sufficiently hazardous experiment; but to drift into war as he permitted himself to drift in 1870, after an utter defeat in a diplomatic duel with Bismarck, was certain to result in disaster. Bonaparte, however, was not wholly cognizant of what was going on outside France, tending to bring about a cataclysm of which he and his conntry were to be the victims. It was the fault of the Imperial system that, at home



THE EX-EMPEROR AND HIS SURROUNDINGS AT WILHELMSHOE.

and abroad, he had to watch everything himself, and when his attention was absorbed in one direction there was certain to be neglect in another. The Emperor had much to occupy his mind in the early days of the year. The virtually enforced resignation of the Prefecture of the Seine by Baron Haussmann was an event of ill omen. The Prefect was inseparably associated with the Napoleonic improvement of the capital, and his retirement was a matter of deep regret, and an absolute loss to Napoleon. His reflections upon what seemed then to be a temporary arrest of the progress of those grand and costly works must have been bitter indeed had he foreseen what in a few months would happen to the splendid boulevards in which he had taken such pride. Having accepted M. Ollivier as his new constitutional Premier, and allowed himself to be committed to Ministerial rule, he left to M. Ollivier the formation of a Cabinet, and one of the conditions was the deposition of Baron Haussmann. Almost immediately followed the assassination of M. Victor Noir by Prince Pierre Bonaparte, at Auteuil, and then began the troubles arising out of the mad mob-leadership of M. Rochefort. Still these misfortunes seemed to move themselves off in a satisfactory manner. The new Ministry prospered. There was at least as much sympathy in the country for Prince Pierre as for the party who sought to avenge the death of Victor Noir. The trial of the Prince and its result met with general approval; and so unpardonably seditious was the conduct of Rochefort that his committal to prison was hailed by men of nearly all shades of opinion as an act of justice and wisdom. Then followed the second *senatus consultum* and the Plebiscité, in which nearly seven and a half millions voted "yes" to the Emperor and his reforms, while not more than one million voted "no." These home affairs led nearly up to the ever-memorable announcement of the candidature of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen for the throne of Spain. The Legislative Body had but just decided upon a reduction of the army contingent and rejected the petition of the Orleanist Princes to be permitted to return to France, when it was called upon to consider the effect of this new move in European affairs on the interests of France. This is the great break in the middle of the year which in the mind of the ex-Emperor separates the Tuileries from Wilhelmshoe. Looking back upon those early July days he must feel that he was plunged almost without a moment's reflection into the awful flood of war which ended his dynasty. He had dreamed of a successful conflict with the power of Prussia, but he did not expect it then. On a sudden, what seemed the gage of battle presented itself, and the old visions, which had been put away for a time, reappeared. Half doubtfully, half hopefully, the Emperor asked himself if this were the grand opportunity which was to come, and he and his counsellors appear to have forgotten for that instant the perfect readiness of the North German army and the very incomplete state of their own military organization. It took but three days to make the war. Begun in rashness, it led very quickly to ruin. Unfortunately, the first Foreign Minister under the new régime, Count Daru, had been removed, and had given place to the bellicose Duc de Gramont, whose first public declaration on the question of the Leopold candidature rendered war all but certain. It was useless afterwards to consider whether France should or should not express itself satisfied with the renunciation of the candidature, for at the very outset the French Minister had said more than the Count von Bismarck, on the part of Prussia, would have submitted to. In six weeks after the words were spoken, in less than a month from the departure of the Emperor from St. Cloud for the army of the Rhine, the Empire was no more; there had ceased to be a French army in the field, and Napoleon III. was a prisoner at Schloss Wilhelmshoe. This is the story that Bonaparte has to con to-day, by the light of many facts known better to him than to most of his contemporaries. His lot is in some degree more bitter than that of his uncle fifty-five years ago; for this man, we think, loves France better than ever did the Young Lieutenant of Artillery, and never did it happen to the first Emperor to know that through him such woe had befallen the land as that which has resulted from the fatal policy of July 1870.

In our picture the Emperor is hanging on the arm of his constant attendant, General Castelneau. The free-and-easy gentleman behind him is Napoleon's physician, Dr. Conneau. A little farther in the background stands the fine figure of Prince Murat, giving instructions to an Imperial Master-of-the-Horse. This is the life Napoleon has perforce been leading since the first week of September, while events have been in progress which it should have been his part to prevent.

LITERATURE.

The Winter Knitting and Crotchet Book. By Madame Le Boutillier. The figures illustrating the knitting and crotchet work are of a seasonable sort: woollen gloves, leggings, and the like, and a full description of all the stitches necessary in the making of them. The baby's gaiter has a remarkably warm appearance. Then there is the lady's "American Cloud," charming as well as comfortable, thrown over the head and shoulders of a pretty woman. And, lest anyone should be jealous, there is a very nice and becoming knitted woollen vest for gentlemen, with stitches for 325 "rows." We hope the industrious fingers trying the specimens in the book will not make the vest the last consideration.

THE JANUARY MAGAZINES.

Here is another "Christmas Number" of *Belgravia*. There is the "extra number," published early in December, which we noticed a month ago, and then, before Christmas Day, thinking we may have exhausted the festival magazine before the holiday comes, Miss Braddon makes haste to publish her January part, which is also specially associated with the season. *Belgravia* for January is a most successful example of the art of producing short articles. There are no fewer than thirteen subjects set down in the "contents," though sixty pages are filled by the regular instalments of Miss Braddon's two stories, "Fenton's Quest" and "Milly Darrell." To the attention of young writers who aspire to contribute to magazines, but declare they do not know how to produce short papers and sketches, we commend the story in four pages, called "The Hospital Mistletoe." It is not a mere incident, but a story, in considerably less than two hundred lines. The Christmas story of the number is written by Mr. Astley Baldwin, and is called "A Christmas Peal," a graceful but seasonable fiction; and quite as seasonable, in two or three senses, is Mr. Scoffern's popular scientific paper on "Condiments." Mr. Scoffern tells us all about pepper, and salt and mustard, and spices; how to get them good, and how to use them to advantage. Not many will pass by that article unread this Christmas time, for none of us are above giving the cook a lesson in her art. "The Haunted Rock" adds the element of the marvellous, while the sensational comes in the shape of an article on "Year One of the Republic," sent by balloon post by Mr. Whitehurst, well known as for many years the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Macmillan's, as might be expected, does not go very deeply into the Christmas festival. It recognises the intellectual demands of its readers, which require to be attended to not so much seasonably as in despite of the season. People must think and read upon the great topics of the time just as if the world was not making holiday, and no doubt a sufficient number will be found stealing away from mirthful scenes to a quiet fireside in the study, and perusing, with all possible zest, "M. Guizot on the Provisional Government and the French Nation," which is just what might be expected from that quarter, and none the worse reading on this account. Of a similar sort of topic is the paper by Lord Hobart, on the "Alabama Claims," which is not quite fair to Lord Hobart's countrymen, seeing how far we have gone in the hope of coming to a settlement with our American cousins, and with how little consideration they have treated us in the matter. A charming contribution to the literary history of the year is the paper entitled "Mr. Dickens's Amateur Theatricals: a Reminiscence."

The Era Almanack is rather an annual than a monthly magazine, but it comes in with the January batch. The book is a perfect prize to the playgoer who takes an interest in all that concerns the history of the stage, and of those who appear behind the footlights. An important element is the "Theatrical, Musical, and Equestrian Obituary," an alphabetical list of deaths of players, musicians, and circus-riders for the last twenty or thirty years. Among the more literary matter is a carefully-written review of the "Opera Season of 1870," by Mr. Gruneisen. This is followed by a long chronology of the "First Appearances in London of Actors and Actresses." Then, after a number of short tales and anecdotes of theatrical life, we have the "Theatrical and Musical Chronology" for the past year; a list of new pieces produced in those twelve months. in London and in the country: a Directory of Theatres, Music Halls, and Artistes; and more theatrical tales.

Taking a number of magazines in a parcel, we may recommend the *Churchman's Family Magazine* to Churchmen's families. The publication is exactly what its title would lead the reader to expect. We next turn to *Cassell's Magazine*, chiefly noted this month for the beginning of a new tale by Mrs. Riddell, called "Frank Sinclair's Wife." Since the conclusion of Mr. Wilkie Collins's "Man and Wife" this is the most promising element in *Cassell's Magazine*. We hope it will be the means of introducing the author of "George Geith" and the "Life's Assize" to a new class of readers—for she is worthy of higher honour in the literary world than has yet been awarded to her. This is a favourable time of year for calling attention to *Cassell's Household Guide*, of which the 15th part is before us. The lessons here given on "Paper Flower Making" are timely; diagrams are added to assist the student. The instructions for storing water, and making it sweet and keeping it so for household use, should be welcome just now, when a good deal of our water for domestic use is frozen up. *Cassell's Book of Birds* is sufficiently attractive by its engravings alone; it will make an admirable book. *Cassell's Technical Educator* is strong this time in "Fortifications" and "Weapons of War," as well as in "Civil Engineering." *Cassell's Child's Book of Songs and Praise* has arrived only at Part II. The frontispiece is a capital wintry scene: a country house in a snow-storm. The songs and hymns are illustrated, illuminated, and accompanied by the music. The *Quiver* maintains an even excellence in its class of domestic reading of a semi-religious tone. We note in it this month a charming poem "A Song in the City," by Matthias Barr:

> Only a song in the City sung
> From a wicker cage in a window hung.

Dalley's Directory is a local almanac, &c., for Bewdley and its neighbourhood, carefully compiled, useful and cheap.

BEET SUGAR.

We extract and condense from a Suffolk paper the following account of a newly established beet-sugar factory at Lavenham in that county, with a compilation of interesting facts relating to the introduction of this branch of industry into this country:—Mr. Duncan, a sugar refiner on a very large scale in London, has for some years been engaged in the practice of importing beet root sugar in the moist state from France, reducing it once more to the state of syrup and then again refining it, the sugar being generally used for admixture with colonial sugar. About three years since he was led to reflect on the great waste of time, labour, and material occasioned by the reduction of moist sugar a second time to a liquid state. He wisely conjectured that if he could introduce the cultivation of the sugar beet into England, express the juice from the roots at a factory established in the centre of the beet-growing district, and forward it to London the desideratum would be attained. Lavenham was selected as the spot on which to commence operations, and the factory was built. Advertisements were inserted in the agricultural and local papers offering 18s. a ton for beet roots (free from earth) to be delivered at the factory gates. At first there was some little difficulty in persuading our East Anglian agricultural friends that it would be to their advantage to grow the sugar or Silesian beet, but when farmers began to understand that they could obtain a better price for this crop than for any other they could grow, and that nearly the whole of the fattening properties of the root for cattle could a better price for this crop than for any other they could grow, and that nearly the whole of the fattening properties of the root for cattle could be re-purchased in the form of pulp at an almost nominal price, their prejudice was somewhat abated. The first two seasons have largely partaken of the nature of experiments, and even this year, though Mr. Duncan has engaged 500 acres of roots, owing to the badness of the season it has not been very successful, but he has proved to his own satisfaction that sugar beet can be grown and beet sugar manufactured as well in England as in sunny France, although not nearly a sufficient quantity of roots for the proper working of the factory has as yet been brought in. In France where the sugar manufacture is chiefly carried on, 300,000 tons of beet sugar being made last year—10½ per cent. of sugar in the roots is considered an extremely good result; at Lavenham the analyses have proved that they have contained 10, 11, and even 12 per cent. of sugar, and the testimony of Mincing-lane is that the best samples of sugar have been brought by Mr. Duncan from Lavenham, and, what is a still better test, the English samples have commanded the highest price in the market. In the factory are no less than five powerful steam engines. The water used is pumped by one of these from a well on the premises 50 feet deep, and passes, after being utilised in the factory, into the small river Brett. More than 150 hands are employed; there being ninety men, a dozen lads, and about fifty women. They work in relays night and day—save from two o'clock on Saturday till Monday morning—during the three or four months the factory is open. The roots are "topped and toiled" by women; after which they fall from a tank of water in small quantities into an open cage in which are iron balls which, as the cage revolves under a stream of water, thoroughly scours, scrubs, and washes them from all impurities, and finally throws the blanched roots through a trap door in the wall on to an inclined plane in the next room. Down this plane the devoted roots roll to a series of revolving knives which cuts them into large pieces which fall on to the "rasp." This rasp is a large iron box, in which a cylinder armed with bands of mole-teeth saws revolves, cutting every fragment literally the pulp. A stream of water from a small pipe is directed on to the top of the rasp, and liquifies into pulp. The sets of teeth in this saw resemble very fine and short pocket combs, each comb being set crosswise into the cylinder, and forming a single line in one of the bands of the saw surrounding the cylinder, so that the whole width of the combs is exerted against the fragments of beet root. Scoops, resembling on a large scale those belonging to coal scuttles, and worked by very long cranks from above, dip at regular intervals into the pulp, emerge loaded to the brim and discharge their cargoes into large bags held in readiness by women. The loaded bags are quickly laid on one of the two hydraulic presses, with iron plates separating each bag from its neighbour. When some twenty or thirty layers are on the press a handle is turned and slowly but surely the press comes down with irresistible force, squeesing the pulp to a compact mass, from which the rich liquor exudes on every side. Six much more powerful presses await the pulp, and each of these receives its shares, hugs it closely, and presses upwards (not downwards as before), depriving it of a large portion of the remainder of its life blood or sap. The pulp is pressed the first time to facilitate the handling of it in the second press. As might be supposed, the most valuable liquor is that expressed at the second process. The comparatively dry bags are taken away by women, who speedily turn them inside out and shake as much of the pulp as possible out of them. This squeezed pulp is eagerly bought by the farmers for feeding purposes, as it still contains a large proportion of sugar and forms a condensed food. Each farmer is permitted to take back in his cart a quantity of pulp, at 12s. per ton, proportionate to the weight of roots that he sent. It is amazing what a quantity of liquid the roots exude while in the hydraulic presses, and how wonderfully their bulk is diminished by the nipping process. The Silesian or sugar beet is composed of 84 per cent. of water, and of but 16 of solid matter, while of the common beet nine-tenths is mere water! The expressed liquor falling down the sides of the presses passes into a large tank beneath the floor. Steam enters at one side and forces the juice by mechanical pressure, as in a squirt, through a pipe to the top of the building. Here are three large copper vessels, each holding some 430 gallons, and into these it is forced. Six pailfuls of cream of lime are poured by degrees on to the juice through which steam is passed in order to boil it. Just before the lime is poured in a sample of the juice is taken by the excise officer, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of duty to be paid. The officer carefully tests it with delicate sacchrometers and thermometers in a room at the further side of the building, set apart for his exclusive use. The object of putting the lime into the liquor is to prevent undue fermentation, and it also has the chemical property of separating from the syrup any impurities that may have been left in it. The cream of lime used is manufactured in a room on the ground floor, and is forced by steam power to this upper chamber in the same manner as the syrup is. The lime having done its work has to be taken out of the syrup. The juice, when thoroughly boiled, passes into the acid cistern. There a worm-like screw passes through the syrup, and injects into it carbonic acid gas. This seizes upon every particle of lime and precipitates it, thus once more clearing the liquor. The carbonic acid gas is also manufactured on the premises. This room and the lime chamber we had just left struck us as being of an unusually high temperature, and we inquired as to the heat; we found that the thermometer in each room stood at something over 100°. From the carbonic acid tanks the liquor passes into six subsiding cisterns to settle, from these being forced into six very long barrelled charcoal filters, which it enters the colour of Irish whiskey, and leaves the taps at the bottom of a clear light red hue. When a filter becomes charged with impurities from the syrup it is replaced by another, the charcoal is taken out, spread over a floor, treated with an acid, and is then put into the very centre of one of the furnaces, in which glowing heat all the impurities and the acid are burnt away, and the charcoal is left, red hot and diminished in quantity, but as good as ever and capable of clarifying the syrup as efficiently as fresh charcoal. The syrup now requires another boiling. It passes into the vacuum pans, from which the air is being constantly exhausted by a powerful steam engine to such an extent that the liquor boils by the heat of the engine's steam at a temperature of 100°. The steam, after accomplishing its work in this pan, passes through a series of vermicular tubes which circulate (as in the first pan) through the syrup in the next pan, where the air is still further exhausted, so that this second pan of liquor is actually boiled by the steam from the first. We peeped through a glass window and could observe the syrup seething and boiling within at a furious pace, although we could bear our hands on the exterior of the boiler. We also noticed that when the steam had done its work it was condensed and again used. After leaving the second exhaust pan the syrup passes into a large tank, from whence it is drawn into hogsheads, at the rate of some 9,000 gallons a week, and despatched to London, where it undergoes the final processes of refining. The refuse from the several processes is itself squeezed by a very powerful press, every drop of liquid that can be expressed is returned by a pipe to the first tank, and the scum, consisting of carbonate of lime and vegetable and earthy matter, is sold to the neighbouring farmers at the nominal price of 3s. per ton. The benefits which the sugar manufacture must confer upon Suffolk in general and Lavenham in particular, cannot be correctly estimated at such an early stage; but one very great advantage which it will prove to the farmer and labourer—and indirectly to the ratepayer—is not so generally known or comprehended as it should be. As the factory is open only during the winter months it does not call down an influx of semi-civilised Hibernians,—who sleep in sacks in the nearest barn, steal all the neighbouring farmers' vegetables and fowls within reach, and have their regular Saturday night "getting tight and fight"—like hop-picking; on the contrary, it affords only the resident rural population a second harvest, by providing indoor employment at good wages, throughout the very season when they most require a helping hand to assist them over the slack work and short pay of the dreary winter.

Important.—14, Carr's Lane, Birmingham. Established 1861, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent saved in value. [24

Iron Wine Bins.—How difficult in many houses to keep a few dozen of Wine as wine ought to be kept—safe, steady, and easy of access! The simplest contrivances of the day are the portable Wine Bins invented by Messrs. Burrow, of Great Malvern. They provide a separate rest for each bottle, soon save their cost, and can be filled or empteed by a child without risk. Made of any size or shape they can be fixed in a minute anywhere in Cellar, Store-room, or Pantry—even the space "under the stairs," or any odd corner in a Batchelor's Chambers may be utilised, and (happy thought) *all can be kept safe under lock and key!* Messrs. Burrow send explanatory Pictorial Illustrations of their Patent Bins, post free, to any one who chooses to write for them, and we believe that Ironmongers and Wine Merchants now very generally keep the various size Bins for sale.—*London Paper*. [148

THE WAR.

The year closes in with accounts of new battles, defeats, sorties, and incidents more or less horrible of the great Franco-Prussian war, which, having monopolised public attention during the half of one year, promises to reach far up into another. We begin with a few random items:—On the 20th a soldier was shot at Havre, in the presence of 3,000 troops and the populace, for desertion. Five others were expected to be shot the next day for the same offence. The Commandant is determined to enforce the strictest discipline. The only unfortunate facts which could be signalled in the capital are the breaches of military discipline, which are, however, exceptional and very limited, and which have resulted in the dissolution of two battalions of the National Guard, namely, those of Belville and the 147th Battalion of Volunteers. M. Flourens has been sent before a court-martial for actions unconnected with politics, namely, for the usurpation of military rank. A certain number of the Belville Volunteers have also been sent before a similar court, for desertion in presence of the enemy.

The sortie from Paris, which took place on the 21st inst., was an event of some importance. On the 22nd the following account of it was telegraphed from the German head-quarters at Versailles:—"In yesterday's sortie from Paris more than 1,000 unwounded prisoners fell into our hands. The positions which were not attacked were, during the sortie, continually shelled, as usual, but, as hitherto, without considerable damage being done. Three hundred and fifty grenades fell on the 5th Army Corps alone, but the loss resulting therefrom was only one man wounded. To-day two brigades of the enemy advanced against the left wing of the Saxons, but their efforts were foiled by the fire of the Wurtemberg batteries."

General Faidherbe sent the following despatch, dated Corbie, on the 23rd, to the Prefect of the Department of the North:—"From eleven o'clock this morning until six this evening, a battle has been in progress at Pont à Noyelles. We have remained masters of the field of battle, after a long artillery engagement, terminating with an infantry charge along the whole line."

A letter from Paris to the 17th inst. states that a census has been taken of all the inhabitants, in order to secure an equitable distribution of food, and to ascertain those who have not fulfilled their military duties. There is no more gas in Paris; the streets and the boulevards and a few shops are lighted with petroleum; nevertheless, theft and murder were never less frequent. Councils of War are held under the presidency of General Trochu.

Returning to the sortie, the following is a French official report:—The operations were interrupted by night setting in. To the east, the French occupied Neuilly-Sur-Marne, Ville Evrard, and the Maison Blanche, and silenced the enemy's fire on all points. After a severe artillery duel to the north-east, Admiral la Roncière, with the troops of St. Denis, attacked Le Bourget, but could not maintain himself there, and returned with 100 prisoners. General Ducrot made a violent attack against the batteries of Pont Iblon and Blanc Mesnil; to the west General Noel made a demonstration on Montretout and Buzenval. The Gardes Mobiles took part in the action with great ardour. At night General Ducrot occupied the farm of Groslay and Grand Drancy. General Trochu passed the night on the field of battle. The troops of Admiral la Roncière suffered severely, the others very little.

The next two items are dated Christmas Eve, from the German side:—

A despatch from Amiens announces that the army of General Faidherbe, 60,000 strong, was defeated yesterday (Friday) by General Manteuffel. On our part only two divisions were engaged. The pursuit was interrupted by night setting in.

Yesterday a victorious battle was fought by the 1st Army on the Hallu, a mile and a half (German) north-east of Amiens, against the enemy's Army of the North, 60,000 strong. After several villages had been stormed by our troops, the enemy was driven back, with heavy losses, across the valley of the Hallu. One thousand unwounded prisoners have been taken.

The following are items from Bordeaux, dated the 24th:—On Friday evening a serious engagement took place between the troops under the command of General Chanzy and the Prussians under the command of the Duke of Mecklenburg. The French occupied the heights, and the Prussians attacked in great force, but were met with a murderous fire from the mitrailleuses, which inflicted heavy losses, estimated at 4,000 men. The French evacuated Vendôme, and afterwards continued their movement of retreat, which is declared to be Chanzy's plan of campaign. The Army of the North has cut the communications between La Fére and Laon. M. Valdée, of Marseilles, has invented a navigable balloon, which can carry heavy weights and can be constructed in twenty days. His system has been approved by a committee of scientific men and engineers.

News has been received from Paris by a balloon which left the capital on the evening of the 22nd inst. No fighting had occurred on that day, with the exception of a few shots fired in the direction of the Heights of Avron; but fresh operations appeared imminent. Paris was completely calm, and perfectly confident in the future. The journals estimated the French loss during the fighting of the previous day at about 800 killed and wounded.

Fresh German troops to the number of 75,000 men have been moved on towards Paris, and the bombardment is daily expected.

A correspondent at Brussels telegraphed on Sunday:—"I hear on undoubted authority that the proposal is now entertained at Versailles of making the cession of Savoy and Nice by France to the Pope one of the conditions of peace whenever negotiations are opened."

Maravilla Cocoa for Breakfast.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers' Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers, Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [76

Faceache, Toothache, Tic Doloreux.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depot, 39, Ann Street. Sold by all Chemists; and J. Yardley, of Bloxwich. [107

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The coming Conference in London to consider the demands of Russia with respect to the Treaty of 1856 and the neutrality of the Black Sea, is exciting a great deal of interest. It is rumoured that Signor Minghetti will be appointed the Italian representative. With regard to France, which is to be represented, M. Thiers was at first spoken of as likely to be accredited at the meeting, but on Sunday it was telegraphed from Bordeaux that a more likely representative was M. Jules Favre himself. The Vienna *New Free Press* publishes a despatch from Constantinople asserting that England will propose to the Conference the suppression of the neutralisation of the Black Sea and the passage of the Dardanelles, and in return for this proposition will ask authority for the construction of two naval stations at Sinope and Trebizonde. The Porte regards this proposition with favour, while General Ignatieff strongly opposes it, and, to defeat the plan of England, will offer to the Porte a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive, with a guarantee for the integrity of the Ottoman territory. It is reported that Russia has ordered a thousand American mitrailleuses.

THOU SHALT NOT MARRY.

There is a series of Divine prohibitions known as the Decalogue in which the cardinal vices of humanity are duly interdicted, and which forms the basis of the custom, if not of the law, of nearly all civilised peoples. The inspired law-giver, however, omitted one important subject, and so in this advanced year of grace, 1870, the Directors of the Union Bank of London have supplied the missing veto, and it runs thus: "Thou shalt not marry on less than £150 a year." The Directorial fiat has gone forth to all Union Bank clerks, forbidding them to enter into the estate of matrimony—notwithstanding it be a holy one—unless they have a salary of at least £150 per annum, and any violator of this edict is to be forthwith banished from the financial heaven in Princes-street. At first sight there is something comic in a wealthy commercial corporation playing the part of Deputy Providence, and regulating the private social life of the clerks in its employ. A Board-minute prescribing the regular use of Holloway's pills, or the wearing of flannel and goloshes, or inhibiting attendance at St. Alban's or the Tabernacle, might be expected to follow, and could hardly be more ridiculously out of character. Seriously, however, when we come to examine the subject, we cannot but regret that a body of shrewd and sensible men should have been betrayed into an unwarrantable interference with those private rights and liberties which belong to every Englishman of mature years. Assuming the motive of this restriction to be benevolently conceived in the interest of those affected by it, it is equally an infringement of the delicate right of private judgment—a right which social custom and the supreme law of the country religiously respect. Society has outgrown feudalism at home, and Englishmen especially have been at some pains to extinguish slavery abroad; yet this exercise of authority, in the matter of marriage, by employer over employed was one of the features of villeinage in mediæval, and of slavery in modern times. Employers of any and every kind of labour, mental or manual, have a palpable right to its punctual and precise performance, and may enforce, direct, and control it by all lawful means; but, that faithful service performed, the authority of the employer ceases, and in all that relates to his individual existence and conduct, apart from his daily duty, the *employé* is, or should be, perfectly free and uncontrolled. Some mistresses are particularly fond of dictating the materials of their maid's dresses, the shape of their mantles, and the trimming of their bonnets, and in directing how, when, and where their wages should be spent. Possibly their interference has often a good result in the matter of appearance as well as economy; but it is none the less a violation of the priciple of individual liberty. The threat of dismissal may also prevent an improvident marriage by a junior clerk, but the threat is an un-called for piece of tyranny. The end in both cases must be plausible, but it does not justify the means taken to attain it.

The Draconian Directorate of the Union Bank profess to have been much impressed with the difficulties and distress resulting from early and improvident marriages among junior clerks. Allowing this to be true, we question if there is not some of the universal element of selfishness at the bottom of their anxiety. How have they been made aware of the difficulties that surround inconsiderate matrimony except by a request for an increase of salary and promotion; and is not the fact of a man being single, and having "only himself to provide for," been frequently made an excuse by employers denying him both? It is more economical, they think to have the executive of a large establishment conducted by a number of young exquisites at £100 a year, who dine little, dress much, drink more, and smoke most, who deem the day behind the desk a tolerable diversion to the evening before the music-hall counter, than to employ, at £150 a year, men whom nature and necessity have endued with a regard for somebohy and something outside themselves.

Of course early marriages, or rather, early family-having, is very improvident, but that improvidence is matched by the heartlessness of mercantile men who, taking advantage of the competition of intellectual labour, callously continue to give inadequate remuneration for it. Common sense revolts against boys and girls marrying, and we know of no financial or commercial house that pays its youngest servants sufficient to tempt them to commit the folly; but if their "junior" clerks are men doing the work of men, with little more than the pay of boys, the distress and difficulty resulting from improvident marriages is as much the doing of employers as of employed. The Directors of the Union Bank fail to see, perhaps, that in drawing a hard and fast line at £150 a year as a marriageable income, they are practically forbidding matrimony altogether. A good many years are occupied in advancing from, say, £70 or £80 to the stipulated sum—years in which much of the method and fashion of a man's future life are formed—years in which he is peculiarly apt to acquire loose manners and looser morals—years in which the working and waiting may be cut short by death, plans and engagements be frustrated by the mutability of circumstances and the hopes of one or two lives be wrecked and cast adrift on the wide ocean of the future. It is real tyranny to compel a city clerk to remain unmarried till he is forty or fifty years old. And the tyranny is foolish. Who are the principal frequenters of the music-halls, the casinos, and other places of questionable resort in the metropolis? and who stimulate the vice and profligacy that flaunts itself openly in the public thoroughfares? Are they the young married men with small incomes and great incumbrances? or are they the unmarried clerks and shopmen with incomes between £80 and £150 a year? Which of these two classes, let us also ask, gives the best guarantees for diligence and commercial rectitude in the interests of their employers,—the young unmarried man, whose head is full of the last ballet, the new comic song, or the forthcoming burlesque, or the man weaned from these frivolities to the purer joys of domestic life? The edict of the Union Bank is not only an interference with liberty; it is also based on a wrong assumption as to that which best promotes the social welfare. We have heard of similar rules in other financial establishments. We hope, however, they may think better of their determination. It is not much good for sentimentalists to prate that "marriages are made in heaven," when we find them prohibited in a back parlour; and it is bewildering to hear on a Sunday the Scripture admonition that "marriage is honourable in all men," and on Monday to find the commercial code plainly setting forth the prohibition, "Thou shalt not marry."—*Examiner.*

Erratum.—In Messrs. Creese and Co.'s advertisement in our last for "envelopers" read "embossers."

The Mont Cenis Tunnel.—A telegram on Christmas-day announced as follows:—The last diaphragm has just been bored, exactly in the middle of the Mont Cenis Tunnel, amid repeatde cries from one side to the other of "Long live Italy!"

The Boar's Head at Oxford.—The ancient ceremony of serving up a boar's head in the hall of Queen's College, Oxford, at Christmas, was observed with the usual pomp on Monday, when the public were admitted in large numbers to witness the interesting event. The boar's head was borne on the shoulders of two of the College servants, preceded by the Provost and Fellows of the Society, and followed by a procession of choristers and singing men, who sang the following ballad most effectively, the Rev. T. Rennison, Precentor of Queen's, taking the solo part:—

> "The boar's head in hand bring I,
> Bedecked with bays and rosemary,
> And I pray you my masters be merry.
> Quot estis in convivio,
> Caput estis in convivio
> Reddens laudes Domino.
>
> The boar's head, as I understand,
> Is the rarest dish in all the land;
> Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland,
> Let us servire cantico
> Caput apri defero
> Reddens laudes Domino.
>
> Our stewards hath provided this
> In honour of the King of Bliss,
> Which on this day to be served is
> In Reginensi Atrio,
> Caput apri defero,
> Reddens laudes Domino."

After the ceremony the decorations of bays, rosemary, holly, and artificial flowers, &c., were distributed among the visitors, and the monster head was placed upon the high table, and the members of the society proceeded to dine. The origin of serving up the boar's head at Queen's College is somewhat obscure, but we glean from Pointer's *Oxoniensis Academia* that "it is in memory of a noble exploit, as tradition goes, by a scholar (a tabarder) of this College in killing a wild boar in Shotover-wood." Having wandered into the wood, which is not far from Oxford, with a copy of *Aristotle* in his hand, and being attacked by a wild boar, who came at him with extended jaws, intending to make but a mouthful of him, he was enabled to conquer him by thrusting the *Aristotle* down the boar's throat, crying "*Græcum Est!*" The animal, of course, fell prostrate at his feet, was carried in triumph to the College, and no doubt served up with an "old song," as Mr. Pointer says, in memory of this "noble exploit."

The **London Star Tea Company**, of Worcester Street, Birmingham, have just introduced a new Lock Tea Cannister, in various sizes, which will be found very convenient to all Housekeepers.

The Musical Art Union.—A novel scheme has been started under this name for giving musicians and amateurs some of the advantages offered to lovers of other forms of art by the Art Union of London. The first distribution took place in September, which comprised a large number of prizes, consisting of musical instruments, volumes of music, &c., of considerable value. The next distribution will take place in January, when any one taking a shilling ticket will have a chance of a prize.—*Volunteer Service Gazette*, November 5th, 1870.

Patent Teeth on Soft Gums.—Mr. William J. Watson, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall Street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties, that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of the art of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges.* Single Teeth from 2s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

The Present Season.—Crichley, Wilde, and Co. are now showing a large section of their Patent Air Warmers; also, the Patent Terra-Cotta Gas Stove, which is entirely free from smoke or smell. New pattern Hot-Air Stoves for Halls, panelled with Encaustic Tiles. Churches, Mansions, Shops, &c., heated on the most approved principles. Show Rooms, 5½, 6, and 6½, Cannon Street. Works, Bordesley. [119

Mutual Life Assurance.—The advantages of the Scottish Provident Institution, as compared with other offices, are a greatly larger original assurance for the same premium, and eventually to good lives, as large additions as where the ordinary high rate of premium is charged.—For particulars, apply to Mr. A. Forrest, 10, Cherry Street, Birmingham. [105

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Shortness of Breadth, Coughs, and Colds.—Thousands of testimonials can be produced to prove the power possessed by these corrective remedies in cases of asthma, incipent consumption, and all disorders of the chest and lungs. The Ointment well rubbed upon the chest and back penetrating the skin, is absorbed and carried directly to the lungs, where, in immediate contact with the whole mass of circulating blood, it neutralises or expels those impurities which are the foundation of consumption, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, and similar complaints. On the appearance of the first consumptive symptoms the back and chest of the patient should be fomented with warm brine, dried with a coarse cloth, and Holloway's Ointment then well rubbed in. Its absorption will subdue advancing symtoms, and baffle this formidable foe. [42

MIDLAND PANTOMIMES.

Birmingham.—"Dick Whittington and his Cat" was produced on Boxing night to a crowded house. We cannot afford space to give the pantomime so lengthy a notice as it deserves, or to treat of its literary merit, which is considerable. The principal attraction, of course, is the transformation scene. It is a very difficult task to describe a transformation scene, and we frankly confess our inability to give our readers any idea of this charming production. It is most beautiful. When it began, the whole audience, that before had been rather noisy, became quite still, and with the exception of exclamations of "oh!" now and then from enthusiastic children, no one seemed to speak above a whisper until it was drawn to a close. The music, arranged by Mr. Humphreys, is excellent. Miss Marie Longmore impersonated *Dick Whittington* very cleverly. Miss Longmore sings well, plays well, and dances well, and she will no doubt become a great favourite before the pantomime is withdrawn. Mr. Sinclair can always be relied upon. He is generally equal to the situation, and as *Idle Jack* he is very amusing. *The Cat* and *Rataplan* are pieces of clever mimicing by Mr. J. Alexander and Master A. Alexander respectively. We did not detect any startling new feature in the Harlequinade, and think it does not surpass previous years. Policemen shamefully treated, and babies used most unmercifully, are the principal features. However, this seems to amuse as much as ever, so that there is scarcely room for complaint.—"Jack and the Beanstalk" was performed at the Prince of Wales' for the first time on Christmas Eve. There was a poor house, and the whole affair went off tamely. We think the pantomime is far inferior to that of last year, especially as regards the transformation scene. The old feature of having a large corps of well-trained children has been retained with success; but there is no Miss Nelly Smith at their head this year, and consequently much of the attraction is lost. Some of the scenery is admirable, and if for nothing else, the theatre is worthy of a visit.

Sheffield.—Tuesday night was the real opening night of the pantomime, entitled "The Babes in the Wood," at the Theatre Royal, and a most successful affair it was, both in performance and patronage. The theatre was crowded in every part, in fact such great numbers have not been known to meet in one night in that building for several years. Miss Effie Macdonald and Mr. Benson are prodigious prodigies of "babes"—most precocious children—and as may be expected from what is already known of this amusing pair they give rise to great mirth. Miss Edwards, as Lord Ladidadi, the cruel uncle of the "babes," performs her part with great credit; as also does Miss Brindsley. There are others of whom we might speak very favourably would space permit, but that will no doubt be done in a future notice. The scenery is thought very good, and among the various scenes we may especially mention scene 3, entitled "The Valley of Silver Firs." To crown all, the grandeur of the transformation scene is of an extremely high order. In our opinion, it is the most tasty and at the same time brilliant scene of the kind that has ever been placed upon the boards of the Theatre Royal. The harlequinade is somewhat improved by a few comical innovations by Mr. Ted Saunders. The whole of the entertainment is already performed with smoothness and accuracy, and reflects great credit upon the leading players.

Bristol.—The pantomime of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" was produced on Boxing-night with every promise of a brilliant run. The pantomime sparkles with quips and quirks, with those grotesque and happy turns of expression which constitute half the literary charm of a pantomime, and, as a story, is especially distinguished by those rapid and startling transformations in scenery and character which give scope to the ingenuity of the artist and the costumier. In presenting this pantomime on the Bristol boards, Mr. Chute has done all that enterprise and taste can suggest to make "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" as brilliant and diversified a spectacle as any one could wish. All the parts are excellentlly allotted, and the performers without exception thoroughly well up in their parts. The piece is richly dressed, and the scenes are as picturesque, as diversified, and as taking as the imagination itself can suggest. The transformation scene is particularly good. It represents the seasons with the most exquisite finish and colour. The Harlequinade is exceedingly diverting. "The Bower of the Arabian Night" is a brilliant conception; and it is reproduced in a style which on Saturday brought down the house. If Ali Baba takes as it ought to do, it will be one of the most successful of the pantomimes that have been produced in Bristol.

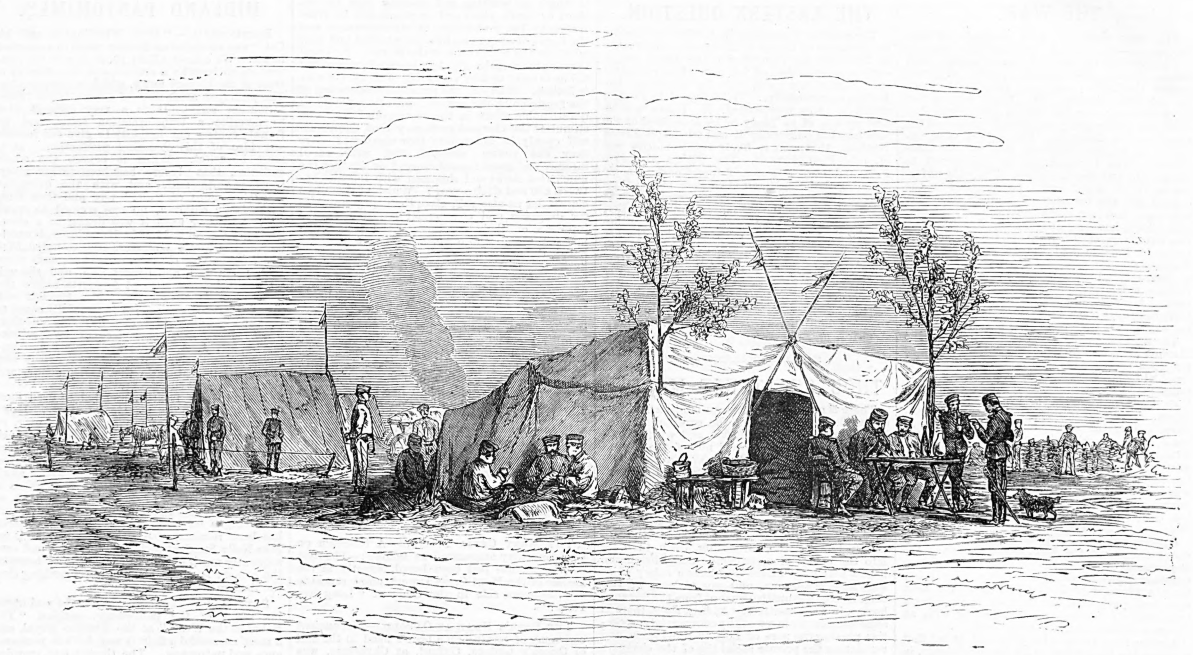
Floriline!!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the Fragrant Floriline on a wet tooth brush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the Teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the Teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed Teeth, a disordered stomach, or tobacco smoke. The Fragrant Floriline is purely vegetable, and equally adapted to old and young. It is the greatest Toilet discovery of the age. Sold in elegant cases, complete, at 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and Perfumers.—H. C. Gallup, Proprietor, 493, Oxford Street, London. [156

Advice to Mothers.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes.—Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [694

For Table Delicacies, Desserts, &c., "Sea Moss Farine" is the most healthful, economical, convenient, and delicious food in the world. A Shilling Packet will produce *Sixteen Quarts* of Blanc Mange, Custard Pudding, Charlotte Russe, Floating Island, &c. Sea Moss Farine is in a far more concentrated form than Corn Flours, Maizena, and other farinaceous or gelatinous articles. Its cheapness, wholesomeness, and simplicity of preparation will commend it to all Hotels, Families, and Restaurants. Sold by all Chemists and Grocers. Sea Moss Farine Co., 266, High Holborn, London. [21

The Hair.—The Plain Truth.—Mrs. Allen's World's Hair Restorer will positively restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises, and the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article that can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s.; in large bottles only.—Depot, 266, High Holborn, London. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [189

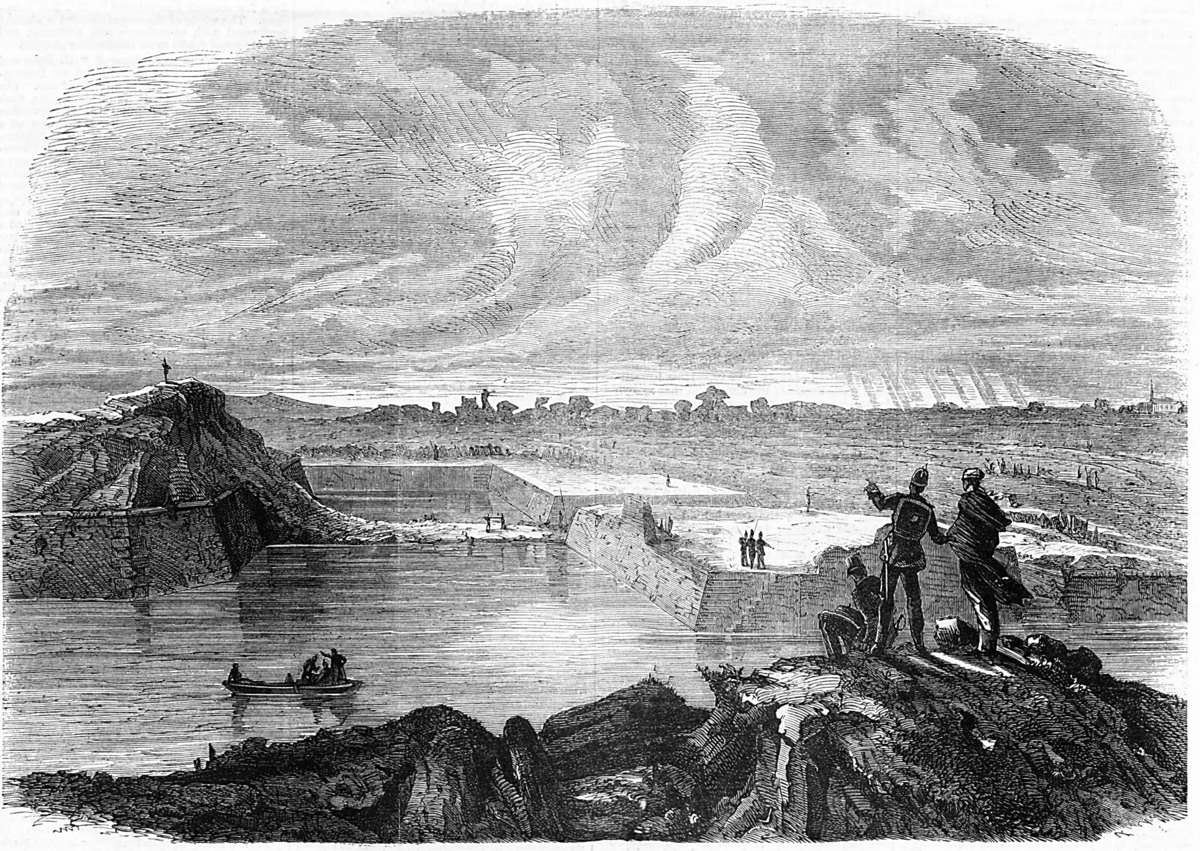
Pure Water.—Alfred Bird, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new Carbon Filter, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [930



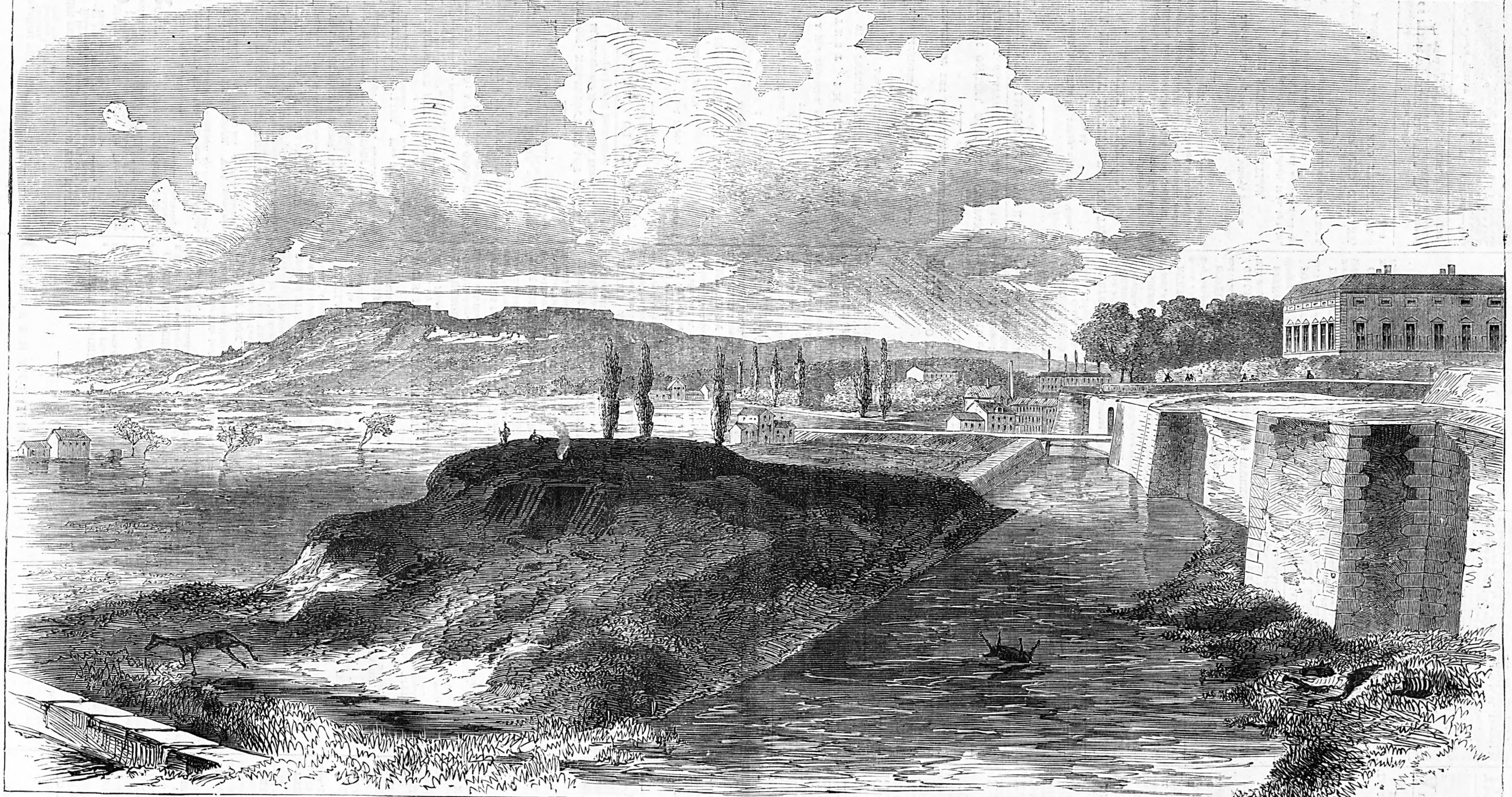
A PRUSSIAN BIVOUACK AT PONTAY.

A Shakespearian Novelty.—Jem Mace on the American Stage.—A Shakespearian revival of a very novel character has been set on foot at Niblo's Theatre, New York. Jem Mace, the celebrated English pugilist, has made his appearance on the boards as an interpreter of the great dramatist, and has filled the house every evening to overflowing. The part in which he appears is not an important one, and he speaks but two lines of the text of the whole play. Not further to tamper with the curiosity of your readers, let me say that the play is "As You Like It," and that Jem Mace comes forward as the Wrestler with Orlando. Long before the curtain rises the galleries are filled with the representatives of the Bowery, hard-faced young men with their "gals," who sit in mute bewilderment, without the vaguest notion of what it all means, bored to death with the philosophical reflections of the melancholy Jacques, until the wrestling scene, when, as soon as the popular favourite walks upon the stage, they make the theatre ring with their acclamations. It is to be regretted that the cruel exigencies of the play demand that the Wrestler should be thrown, and the audience is decidedly "down" on Shakespeare in consequence, regarding Jem Mace's defeat as a "put-up job," for which they have no toleration. Accordingly they call out always for another round and fair play, but as yet the manager has not consented to change the issue of the struggle. He may be compelled to consent to the introduction of a second combatant for Jem Mace to vanquish, and the pressure is already so great that the prize-fighter appears before the curtain at the end of the act. It is but fair to say that he is very ably supported by Mr. Walter Montgomery as Orlando, and Mrs. Scott-Siddons, as Rosalind, "the chaste, the fair, the inexpressive she."

The Duke of Edinburgh has been paying a third visit to Melbourne. There was no public reception, the visit being strictly private. The Prince went to Sandridge without the Galatea, which was at Sydney refitting, and was attended only by Lieutenant Haig, his equerry. His Royal Highness was the guest of the Governor. The Prince attended the theatres once or twice, was present at a ball at the Town Hall to celebrate the opening of the Alfred Hospital, the foundation-stone of which he laid during his first visit to the colony, and witnessed the first day's racing of the Spring Meeting of the V.R.C.



LUNETTE NO. 53, BEFORE STRASBURG.



THE WESTERN VICINITY OF METZ.

Sham Antiquities.—Some of our readers may remember a controversy which commenced to rage about four years ago, and which went on ever so long after, regarding certain Roman inscriptions discovered at Nennig, a small place on the Upper Moselle, about seven hours' distance from Trèves. The first excavations on this since famous spot are said to have been undertaken, without result, in 1819. In 1840 the property in question—a Roman villa, to wit—passed into the hands of a Trèves antiquarian society, but it was not till 1852 that the first real discovery, consisting in a mosaic floor of great value, was made. Four years later the State acquired the ground, and by some extraordinary jobbery or neglectfulness the local government of Trèves intrusted the further excavations to a Mr. Schäffer, about whom the least said the better. This gentleman, himself no "scholar," so well acquitted himself of his task that he first of all found four painted mural inscriptions, and next another sculptured, all vouching for each other, and clearing up with marvellous lucidity certain points which had long been the stumbling-block of antiquaries, and which had formed the principal battle-ground among certain Trèves antiquaries. But no sooner were the inscriptions made known than they were condemned by the highest palæographical authorities of Germany—Brombach, Mommsen, Hübner among the number—as clumsy forgeries. Whereupon the "local patriots" of Trèves arose to defend their genuineness against all comers, and a whole pamphlet literature on the subject was the result. Both parties standing strongly by their opinion, the Government at last took the matter in hand, intrusting Professor Aus'm Werth with a thorough and exhaustive investigation of the circumstances connected with the discovery itself. His report has just been published, and it contains the most astounding revelation of a forgery, planned by some unfortunately too fanatical antiquary in support of his theories, and executed by Schäffer, who, it would seem, is now to bear the whole brunt of the offence by himself. It appears that the lapidary inscription was not made until the genuineness of the mural inscriptions had become the subject of contest; and, worst and clumsiest of all, Schäffer actually predicted the day of the discovery of the former, and actually invited a number of gentlemen to witness it. All these things, as well as the chymical agencies applied by Schäffer to the wall paintings in order to give them the necessary dirt-covering of 2,000 years' standing, had already become known in the course of time. A new and more startling fact, however, remained for Professor Aus'm Werth to discover—viz., a letter written by Schäffer to one of his antiquarian patrons on the day before the discovery of the lapidary monument, already containing the whole inscription in question! This fatal anachronism finishes the matter as far as science is concerned. It will be another question whether the authorities will take any further steps regarding the authors of the fraud committed "under Government."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

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NOTICES.

Our respectful apologies are due to several members of the news trade and to many of our customers on account of the disappointment they have suffered in the non-delivery of the Christmas Number. The demand was far beyond our ability to produce. Those who have received copies of the coloured picture alone will get their supplements with this Number. It is impossible at present to do more than this. If the orders that are still coming in justify us we shall reproduce "I See Him," and issue it at a very moderate price to all purchasers of the paper during the month of February. Meanwhile we have made arrangements to increase our mechanical appliances in such a way as to prevent a repetition of the difficulty of the past week.

The present Number of the *Illustrated Midland News* will complete the Third Volume. The Index, printed on a separate sheet, will be ready on January 7.

We commence the Fourth Volume next week in new type, printed on toned paper, with a beautiful front-page engraving, entitled, "New Year's Gifts."

New Subscribers will find this a most fitting opportunity for taking in the paper regularly. Old Subscribers will, we trust, see in the present paper and in the increased importance of our New Year's Number an earnest of our intention to be more and more worthy of their support.

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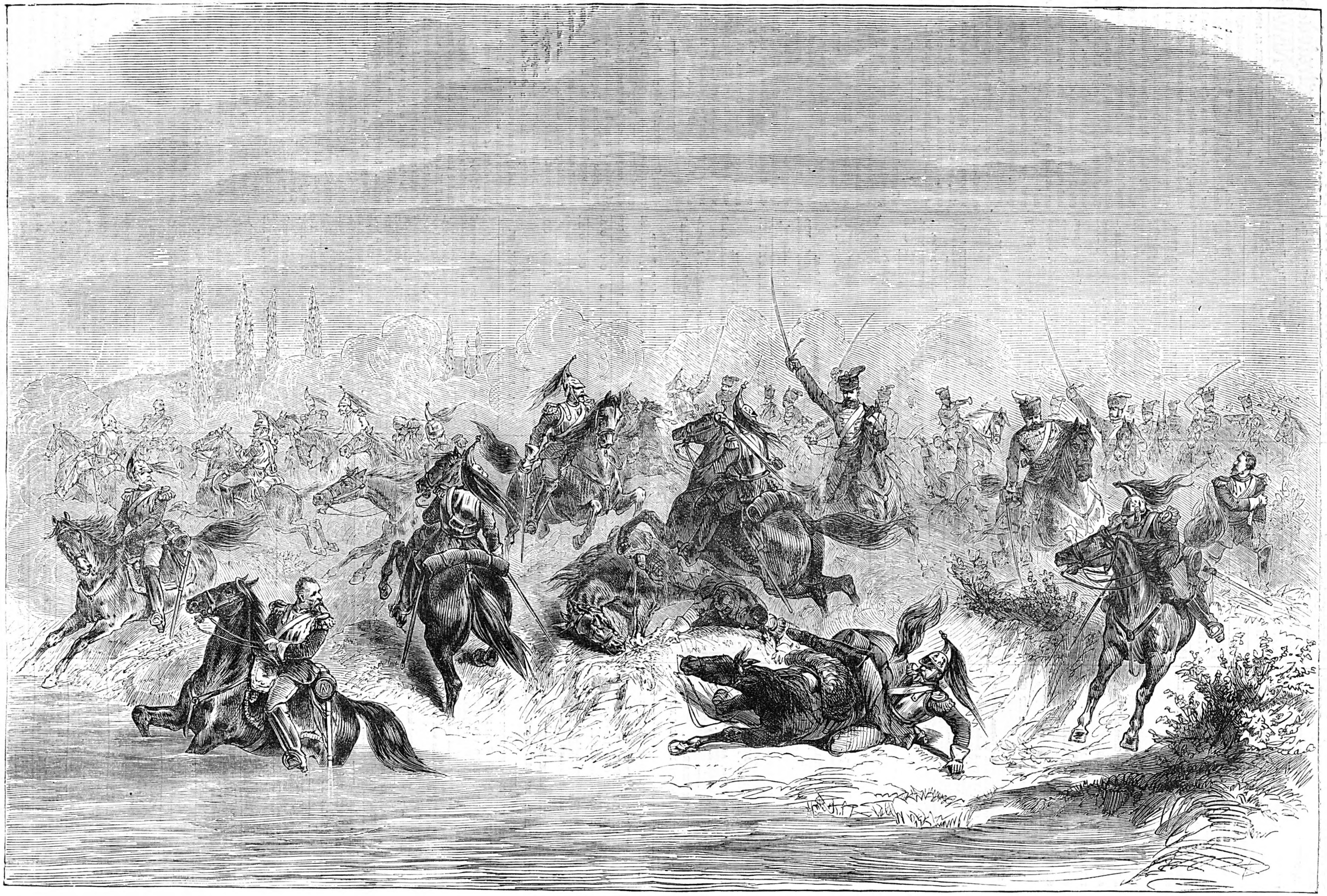
The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, DEC. 31, 1870.

A few words of personal explanation. We are the victims of a great success. The demand for our Christmas Number has been so far beyond our means of supply that we have been unable to issue the full complement of the orders in hand. Finding our means of printing inadequate we sought aid in Birmingham from other houses, but without avail. Our paper is a novelty still in the provinces, and could not be printed except on our own machines, which were insufficient for the purpose. Other mechanical difficulties have impeded our operations, and the Christmas holidays emptied local shops of workmen who might have helped us. Warned by this disaster—the disaster of too much success—we have made arrangements for the future that cannot fail to prevent a similar difficulty. At the beginning of the New Year we shall supplement our arrangements in Birmingham with special London appliances for the more rapid production of the paper. We shall commence the New Year with important changes announced in our last and again referred to this week. Meanwhile we most respectfully solicit the indulgence of the news trade and the public, to whom we can safely promise that there will be no repetition of the disappointments of the past week.

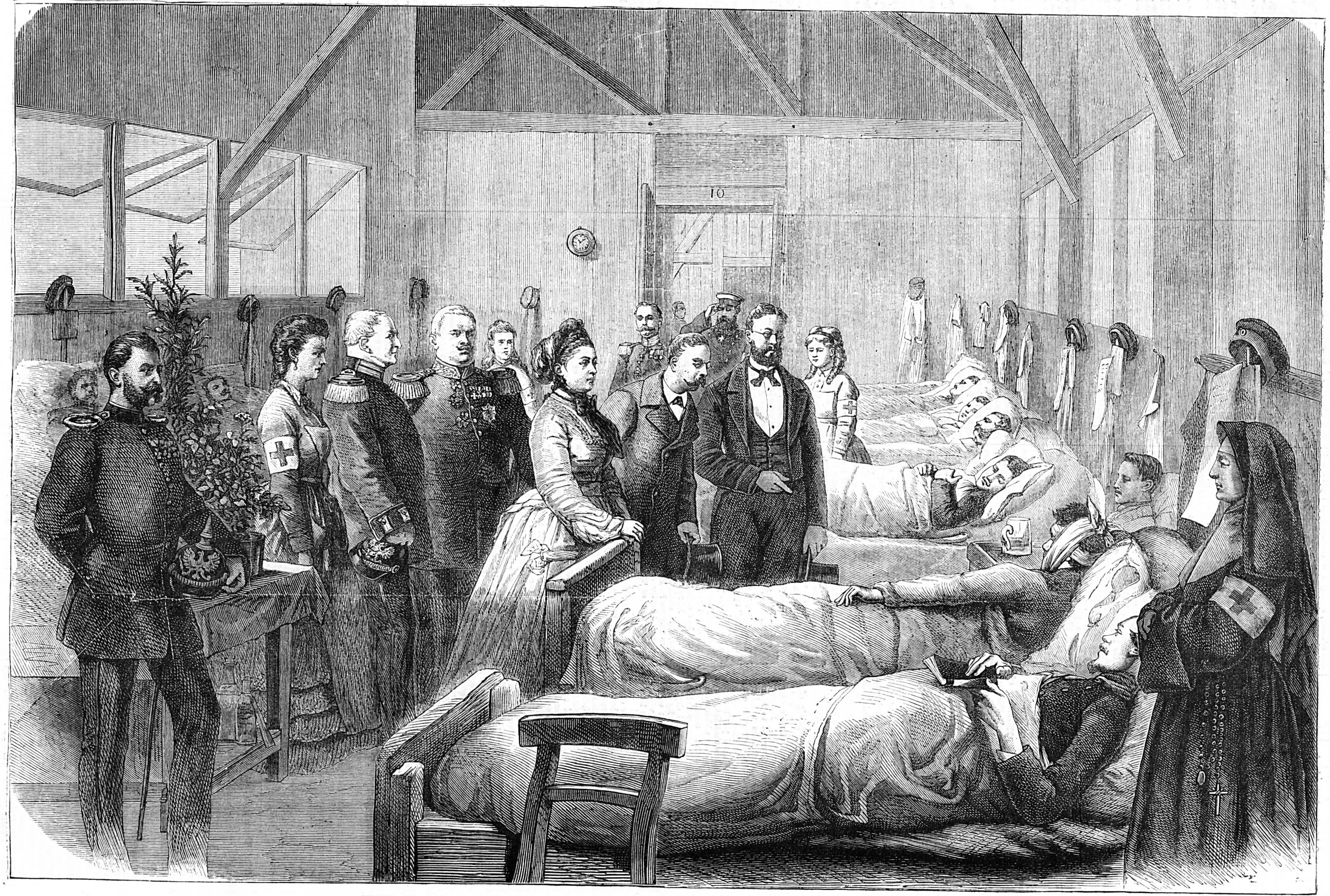
There is no doubt about what we have frequently suggested with regard to the Germans. They dislike us and feel our influence and power to be in their way. The hostility of the German soldiers towards England is notorious among lookers on at the war in France. This hostility breaks out now and then into open insult and defiance. Last week the spite of some officials brought about the arrest of several British officers; but "satisfactory explantions" were given by Bismarck to our Foreign office. This week the Germans have deliberately taken sundry coaling vessels of ours navigating the Seine and sunk them to defend the river. They have not only done this but treated the English sailors with a high-handed brutality that ought to require more than "explanations" at the hands of the "Emperor of Germany."

Mr. Gladstone is being severely handled by some of his extreme supporters. His hasty congratulations upon King William's change of title, are put forth in contrast (with some show of justice it must be admitted) to his refusal to recognise the French Republic. Apart from this wayside incident the Liberal papers are dealing out scorching satire upon the weak and vascillating policy of Mr. Gladstone and his government. The *Spectator*, for example, is very bitter in its criticism of the ministry which has, everybody admits, fallen short of the position created by recent events. The utter disregard of the storm which we had seen gathering so long is little short of treason. Regiments disbanded; dockyards emptied of their best hands; the volunteers pooh-poohed when everything portended dangers ahead of the most terrible kind, will fill a strange page in history, where for the present all men will be content to leave it if every effort is made to retrieve the mistakes of the past. It is the duty of a people who have been so deceived by their rulers to demand vigorous action. Surely if the Conservatives had been in office great public meetings would have been called to ask very ugly questions. We should all sink mere party politics at a time like this. We can say so the more fearlessly as a non-political paper. All we wish for is a ministry that shall do justice to the dignity, honour, and power of the nation. The people should be content with nothing short of an immediate embodiment o the militia, general recruiting for soldiers, the complete arming of the volunteers, the increase of our naval force, and the immediate laying down of gunboats in every dockyard in England. In the meantime, conscious of doing what is righteous and just, we should hold our own in the presence of European complications, with a manly and unswerving boldness in the maintenance of our dignity. Heaven grant that we may not be dragged into war; but, if we are to fight, let us gird up our loins and accept our destiny. Everything points to a stormy future which it were criminal to disregard.

The Germans have shown a power of organisation and a marked valour in the field which has excited the admiration of all nations. It is a pity the commanders do not put down with a strong hand the growing tendency of their troops to pillage and murder. We are glad to see that General Werder repudiates the execution of franc-tireurs when taken prisoners. The Germans can afford to be magnanimous in the midst of victories so complete and overwhelming.



ATTACK OF PRUSSIAN HUSSARS ON FRENCH CUIRASSIERS AT BEUAMONT.



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THE A.B.C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

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ARABIAN.

Arabian ornament proper may be briefly dismissed. The Arabs constructed their buildings chiefly of old materials which themselves suggested the style adopted. Their ideas of ornament too were, to a large extent, derived from ancient Persia, from which they are supposed to have borrowed many of their arts. The Arabs had neither art nor artists of their own. They came from their deserts with no more taste or knowledge of such matters than a mere love of finery could give them. The architectural magnificence of Cairo and Damascus, which fell into their possession about 634 A.D., brought about a new era in Arabian design and ornamentation. With their new power arose a new ambition, and the Byzantine artists were pressed into the service of Arabian caliphs and generals, who were ordered to raise rich mosques and palaces.

Stringent limits upon the application of ornament were placed by the Mahommedan law—in endless designs in mosaic, marquetery, or in stucco, there was to be no image of a living thing, vegetable, or animal, so that mere curves and angles or interlacings were now to bear the chief burden of a design, with nothing to distinguish them but a lavish variety of colours. The curves, however, fell naturally into the standard forms, and floral shapes disguised, while the lines and angles were soon developed into a characteristic species of tracery or interlaced strap work, very agreeably diversified by the ornamental introduction of inscriptions.

TABLE TALK.

Everybody acknowledges the propriety of intensely and uncomfortably cold weather at Christmas. We complain of it, but we apologise on the moment for the complaint. Before the sharp frost comes we look forward to it as to something that is to be a relief from weather of a much less desirable sort, and when it comes, and close, too, upon the twenty-fifth of December, we congratulate ourselves. And yet how very soon we grumble. The truth is that frosty weather is like most other things over which we have no control—it very rarely comes according to pattern. There is a kind that is always welcome. It is when the atmosphere is clear and dry, and the degree of frost is not very severe. By day or by night that is undoubtedly the most welcome form of winter—by night especially when the moon shines. But this is weather that happens to us in this island only at considerable intervals, and in short allowances. We had a few days of it in anticipation of Christmas, just to show how transient it is, and how liable to a relapse into some other and less agreeable form of cold weather. For picturesqueness—the description of picturesqueness that makes Christmas pictures—this has been a very favourable festal season. The sketches of the time for "Christmas numbers," were all in the press before the temperature fell, but the artists, no doubt, in the days of this week and last have filled their note books with many a capital scene for next year. In the centre of the Midland district, in the immense town of Birmingham, Thursday is market-day, and that of the twenty-second was the one known as the Christmas Market. This was a model day for the season and the feast. The frost was sharp, but not sufficiently so to hurt. There was enough snow to make white planes and lines and curves, but it did not fall in such quantities as to destroy the colouring of the scene. When the Bull Ring was filled with Christmas merchandise—the overflow of the gigantic building—and everything, animal and vegetable, was salted over with a light qualification of snow, then might be caught pictures enough to fill a Christmas album. There is so much pleasure in the anticipation of enjoyment that among the pleasantest recollections of most people in connection with Christmas are items of experience preceding the day, and Christmas of 1870 will deserve a famous niche by reason of the three or four days of fresh and moderately-tempered frost which preceded the great anniversary. After that, however, it was a case of hardship. The weather was bitter. To go out to a family dinner or supper and to return from one this week have formed a costly penalty for the pleasures of social recreation.

That Thursday's market in the capital of the Midlands reminds us to note and to place on record a unique fact in connection with the day. The oldest Midlander cannot count off on his fingers very many Thursdays before Christmas when there was just enough frost and snow to give a zest to the associations of the day and no more; but if we could call up the Midlanders of as many hundred years as have elapsed since a market was held in Birmingham on that day of the week, we should not find one who could say that previous to 1870 the buyers and sellers at market on the Thursday before Christmas day stopped from their trafficking for a few minutes to watch the phenomena of an eclipse of the sun. No darkened glass was needed, to assist in the spectacle on this occasion, and no man of science was required to point out that something unusual was happening. Without having anticipated it or thought of it, the wayfarer could hardly help seeing the remarkable spectacle, and so obvious through the shading of light clouds was the nature of the movement that the most unlearned in astronomy might unaided have jumped to the conclusion that the moon had got between the sun and the earth, and was obstructing the rays of the "greater light." That an eclipse of the sun, nearly total in this country and total in a more southern latitude, occurred on the 22nd inst. is a fact that hardly called for mention in this column, seeing how notorious is the event; but places and circumstances give a special colour to an occurrence which is in itself neither of place nor of circumstance; and it is not altogether unworthy of observation across this table that the eclipse of December 1870 is peculiarly mixed up with the recollections of the thousands of Midland market people and marketers of the Thursday before Christmas, in the year of whose days from to-day we cease to take note.

The severity of the season since Christmas Eve has naturally revived old reminiscences of hard frosts, especially in connection with the festival. Over the Christmas table many a long memory has been ransacked for statistics and instances. The favourite example is that which is fresh in the minds of the largest number. It has been noted as something of a coincidence that Christmas Day just ten years ago was extraordinarily cold, though we do not think anything can be made of the fact that in each of these years the date happened to have a cipher in the unit's place. A clear and fine day, in every way more pleasant than last Sunday, was the twenty-fifth of December, 1860, but it was frightfully cold. In some places in England the thermometer ranged 18 degrees below zero, and the frost on New Year's Day was very nearly as severe. A few degrees make an immense difference to those who are exposed to the weather. That first of January was a remarkably clear, bright, and pleasant day, but while you were examining the bulb of the glass and noting as the sun was shining that the register was still some thirty-six degrees below freezing point, and had been in the earlier morning forty-four degrees, it was not easy to appreciate the otherwise charming characteristics of the atmosphere. The coldest day ever known in London was a Christmas Day, just seventy-four years ago. The occurrence is not fresh in the memory of many of us. The register then was 16 degrees below zero, and though that was beaten only ten years ago in many parts of England, it has not been equalled in the metropolis, which is in by no means the coldest latitude of our island. We had some excessively sharp weather in the first week in January only three years ago, when the mercury fell below zero in London, but the severity did not set in till after Christmas Day. A very remarkable frost was one that began on Christmas Day 1766, and lasted till the 17th of January, when there was one day's thaw, followed by another week of excessively sharp frost. The continuance of intense cold for nearly a month was terrible in its effects upon the population and vegetation.

THE WANT OF THE AGE.

The following letter under the signature of "Celibate" appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Friday:—

In this letter I approach my chief position and unfold my theory with the boldness which becomes a man, yet not without the modesty which is proper to a celibate. What is the great want of the age? More competitive candidates, governesses, and clerks? No. More churches? No. More curates? Emphatically no. It is more cooks and better cooks. In the recognition and working out of this idea I see before me the growth of feminine intelligence, the development of feminine administrative capacity, the attainment by woman of position, money, privileges, power—in short, of all that is dear to her heart, including what shopkeepers call an extensive and superior choice of husbands. "There is no such thing, my wife tells me," said a professional man to me lately, "as obtaining a good cook with a good character at anything like reasonable wages. And I believe it. We had one, a very plain cook, both in accomplishments and manners, to whom we gave £15 per annum. Finding she knew nothing, I paid two guineas to have her properly instructed at a school of cookery. This done, she immediately demanded that her wages should be doubled. As we declined to comply, she left us and obtained easily £30 elsewhere. Reflecting on the loss of our two guineas, my wife proposed that she should herself take a course of lessons at the said school, to which I joyfully agreed, and never has our money been better invested." Good eating—by which I mean partaking leisurely and with discrimination of clean and well-cooked dishes of food in judicious and harmonious succession—is conducive to health and happiness, and preserves, if it does not create, beauty. It keeps the eyes bright and fair, and gives a peculiar polish and elasticity to the skin. Englishwomen are beautiful in spite of their cookery. French women look handsome and charming very often because of it. Our girls, as long as they are young and satisfy their appetites on milk, fruit, eggs, &c., preserve, with the aid of fresh air and cold water, their fine complexions. But when married life begins, and the eating of heavy, badly-cooked late dinners is an inevitable duty, then we see cadaverous complexions, a blotchy or wrinkled skin, dimmed eyes, sleepless and disturbed nights; or, on the other hand, bloodshot yellow eyes, unwieldly proportions, purple visage, a red nose; termination—hypochondria, liver complaint, with possibilities of apoplexy. Meagre feeding is compatible with perfect health, though not with beauty; but dirtily-prepared, indigestible, unappetizing food destroys both health and good looks—the temper and the stomach; it ruins a man's temporal happiness and imperils his spiritual prospects: for how shall he who cannot digest his food retain the equanimity and temper of a Christian gentleman? Every person of sense, and even the majority of stupid people, will admit this; nor will they deny that want of knowledge of the elements of the science of cooking our food is one of our natural deficiencies, and one which we are just beginning to realize very deeply. We are heavy, sad, and ignorant feeders; but we are not gross and greedy feeders like the Germans, the north Germans especially. This in my mind fully accounts for a certain brutal animalism which (culture notwithstanding) the Prussians are always apt to exhibit whenever they are afraid that they shall not have enough to eat. And the farther they get from the base of their food supplies, the more nervous and savage in consequence they will become. How would it have been with Berlin and London had they been invested as Paris is at this moment, and the inhabitants been made practically acquainted with the elegant distich so affectionately referred to lately by a Saturday Reviewer as the chronic cry of his childhood, "Nineteen, twenty, my belly's empty?" Either of these cities must have capitulated before now from sheer starvation. The Germans because they would have devoured every particle of food in whatever shape or kind; the Londoners because, reduced to area cats and the like creatures, we should have had neither the art to disguise them decently nor the scientific culinary knowledge to prepare them palatably. If Paris is to be saved it will be at least as much by culinary knowledge and skill as by feats of arms.

I am not at present considering the case of the daughters of shopkeepers, the burghers, the wives of clerks, but of those who can afford to keep the creatures they are pleased to call their cooks, and who dare to eat the decoctions and messes prepared by them. On this point, of course, I have my own ideas; and just as I think that every man who keeps horses should know how his stable is conducted and understand every operation from the putting on of a shoe to the drying of a cracked heel, so every woman ought to know the proper method of cooking whatever dish she chooses to command; and in these days of kitcheners, stoves, and other neat contrivances, a good deal might be effected, and much legitimate influence obtained, by simply using the services of an ordinary kitchen maid, controlled and directed by an ingenious, enterprising housewife. I am speaking of the number of girls of the poorer classes who under the new bill will receive the elements of education so called, and be turned thenceforth loose on the world to swell indefinitely the already large crowd of young women all eagerly competing for food, subsistence, employment, money, and husbands—a great number of them quite unfit or unable to procure all or even any of these things. There are the orphans, foundlings, vagabonds, Arabs—well, I say, make them all into cooks. The want of this age is cooks. Here we have the raw material for supplying it, besides the really splendid prospects for the girls themselves. Moreover, by the misfortunes of our neighbours we have just now a special opportunity for enlightenment and instruction. Of the many thousand distressed French men and women who are now driven to dwell with us, surely some, indeed many, would be found who would be glad to undertake to teach us their method of preparing food in a manner at once simple and scientific, wholesome and cleanly, economical and appetizing. I can only say that if the tide of emigration on our shores does in any way disseminate the true principles of cookery, however simple and elementary, among the English people, these poor Frenchwomen will have amply repaid us for all the money we have subscribed for the sick, the wounded, and the suffering husbands, brothers, and sons in their own land. Take cooks as they are among us at present. A thoroughly accomplished man-cook commands from £200 up to quite a fancy price. A very moderate woman-cook, who has no knowledge of any part of her métier, except the mechanical, who is both ignorant, wasteful, and professionally dirty, may, provided she is sober and clean in her person, obtain from £25 to £40 wages (which is the price of half the governesses), besides the best consideration of the baker and the greengrocer, and the respectful attentions of the policeman. Now a woman who understood as much of cooking as an ordinary Frenchwoman, who considered it in the same earnest and serious light, who was economical on scientific principles, who was exact in her quantities, rigid in her qualities, intelligent in her flavourings, and professionally and fastidiously clean in her properties—her pots and pans and cloths and so on—would, I do not hesitate to say, obtain from £80 to £150, and be sure at last of the homage and the unceasing affection of one husband, or, if polygamy were allowed, of several.

There is no doubt that one-half of the food supply in England is literally wasted from ignorance of the way to cook it; and the hypochondria and dyspepsia which are supposed to be our national characteristics arise from the same cause. Meat or flour, as the case may be, is cooked or half-cooked in an indigestible, unwholesome, unpalatable manner. That which is with us thrown into the waste-tub would in skilful, artistic hands furnish admirable, succulent, and inviting dishes. In France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, and even in Spain, the women perform all their culinary operations with intelligence, and find legitimate pride in the results. In Germany the women also prepare the food in a fashion which, if unrefined, is at least economical, and is well suited to the coarser appetite of the German male. I contend that after the three R's, instruction in cookery and in the economical use and preparation of food ought to be the one thing taught to the children of the poor, as being a sure means of making a comfortable home and of earning readily an honourable competence. All foundlings, Arabs, the homeless and moneyless, when caught and housed, clothed and fed, ought to be made into cooks. Take, for example, those well-known institutions the Foundling and the Albert and Orphan Asylums. If the authorities of these places were sensible, practical men, they should every year turn out a fair number of ambitious, intelligent, and skilful young cooks, and would, to use a phrase once more in vogue, deserve well of their country for so doing. More than this, it would be desirable that the girls of the lower middle classes, as well as of the very poor, should have their understandings informed and their attention invited to the profession. Their ambition should be stimulated by explaining to them the excellent opportunities which are open to them, the liberal remuneration, the great consideration and comfort which even moderate abilities, with conscientious study, are sure to procure, and the really magnificent prospects which genuine capacity and inventive power, united to good conduct, are perfectly certain to realize.

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GOSSIP.

Wagner has been lately suffering very badly from a nervous complaint. He is better now, and is working away at the third part of his "Nibelungen Trilogy."

Mr. Hotten publishes "Gamosagammon; or, Hints on Hymen, for the Use of Parties about to Connubialize." The author is the Hon. Hugh Rowley, editor of "Puniana."

A great Beethoven Concert has been given in Berlin with the aid of Madame Schumann and Joachim. A composition, by the great violinist, in the shape of a march "simple and original" created some enthusiasm. *Musical Standard.*

On the visit recently of the Mario Concert Party to Ipswich, Mdlle. Liebhart paid the town the compliment of singing the "Song of Peace," by Mr. Barwell, a native of Ipswich. The pianoforte accompaniment was also by an Ipswich lady, Mrs. Arthur Wykes Cole, who, as a special compliment, was requested by the artistes to play her own accompaniment, a very unusual honour for provincial professors.

Some of the very best modern authors are not writers by profession. Grote, author of the "History of Greece," is a banker. John Stuart Mill's greatest literary labours were done in the intervals of clerking at the East India House. William Morris, the author of "The Earthly Paradise," is a sort of upholsterer, keeping a great shop for the sale of ecclesiastical and mediæval furniture and devices. Matthew Arnold, poet and essayist, has a place in the Board of Education. Sir John Lubbock, author of "Prehistoric Times," is a banker. William Robert Grove, author of "The Correlation of Physical Forces," is a busy lawyer, and for some years has been leader of the South Wales and Chester Circuit. In America, Bryant has been a journalist for some seventy years; Holmes has been a practising physician; Sprague was a banker; Hallack was Mr. Astor's secretary.

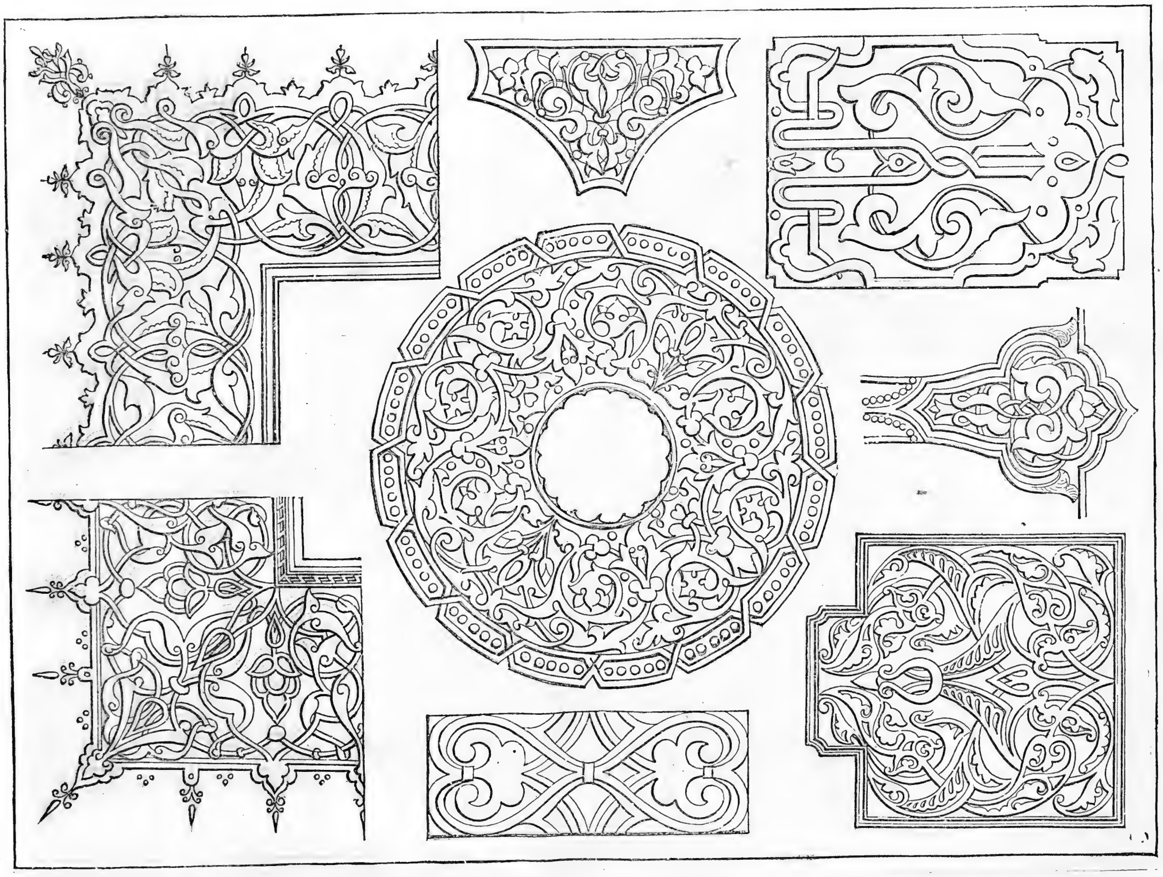
THE FRATERNITY OF LETTERS.—The "fraternity of literature," "the republic of letters"—these are the names used to indicate the aggregate of men who support themselves by their pen. The latter phrase is strikingly appropriate for one reason if for no others. The republic of letters resembles every other republic of modern times in this one particular, it is full of divisions and split up into factions; its members live in a state of shallow amity or of ill-disguised mutual dislike, jealousy, and suspicion. To the abstract cause of literature your modern *literati* and *literatuli* may or may not be loyal; they are certainly not loyal to the cause as it is bodied forth in its representatives. There is something absolutely sickening in the knowledge of the fact that the boon companions, the literary *confrères*, who sit together smoking their pipes and sipping their brandy-and-water one hour, will when they separate, if they should either of them fancy that it is in the slightest degree conducive to their interests so to do, abuse each other as roundly as if they were in reality avowed enemies, instead of by pretence sworn friends. A publisher has to suggest something to one of the pair; we will call him Jones. The work in question is of such a nature that he requires some *collaborateur*. What does he, Jones, think of Smith? The opinion which he, Jones, individually holds is on the whole not one of enthusiastic admiration of Smith's abilities. Far be it from him to say anything at all prejudicial to Smith; still—well, what does Jones think? Oddly enough Jones's opinion entirely coincides with that of Jones; Smith is a good fellow enough no doubt in the abstract, but so far as brains or work are concerned, Jones's idea, he is sorry to say, is that Smith is an egregious "duffer." This sort of thing runs through the whole business; this taint of jealousy and venom pollutes the purity of the entire atmosphere of that delightful creation, the republic of letters. Mr. Huff and Mr. Muff meet together and criticize Mr. Puff's last novel *from top to bottom*. Mr. Puff is a great friend professedly both of Mr. H. and Mr. M. They were dining at his house last night, and did not hesitate then to inform Mr. P., in no measured terms, that they considered the aforesaid fiction, as a work of art, simply perfect. "Devilish clever I call it," said Huff; "what say you Muff?"—"It is simply the best book of the season," returned Muff, helping himself to a glass of sherry, whereat the flattered Puff blushed and thanked his kind friends. To-day when Mr. H. meets Mr. M. he accidentally observes, "I've been reading a chapter of Puff's novel, and, upon my soul, it is the weakest twaddle I ever came across." Exactly Muff's view. He always said, and he says so now, that Puff can't write a line; and, adds this pleasant gentleman of honour, "I have written a notice of the book for the *Scourge*, in which I have plainly stated as much."—"Hope Puff will like it," replies Huff. "Hope so too; have a glass of sherry, old boy?" In these sketches there is no exaggeration.—*Britannia.*

An Englishman, who deserves well of his country, had a large family, to which additions were constantly making. One day one of his little boys was thus interrogated:—"John, how many brothers and sister's have got got?" "I don't know," answered the boy, "I hain't been home since morning!"

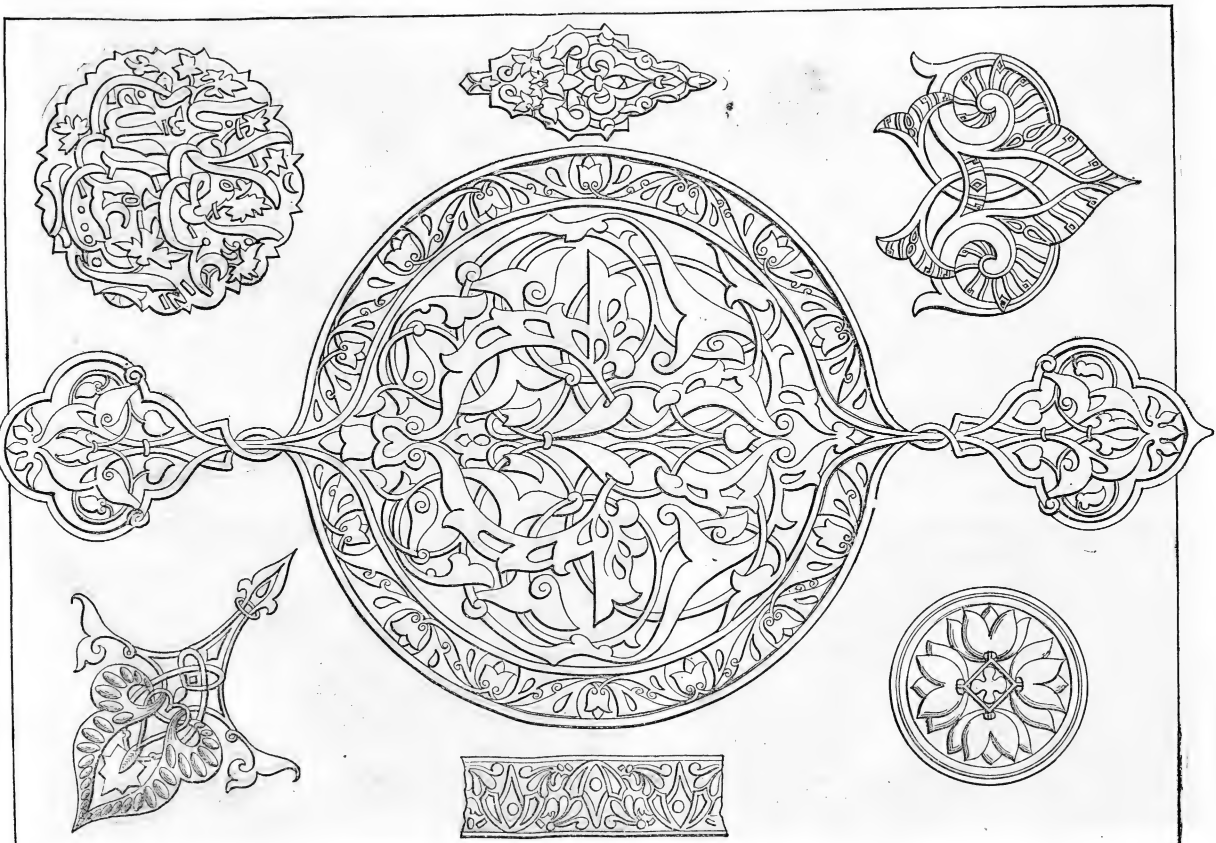
A letter from Meram, in the Tyrol, where the Empress of Austria is now staying, says that her Majesty, accompanied by her sisters and her children, makes frequent excursions in the neighbourhood. Notwithstanding the bad weather, the Empress rises at six o'clock every morning and walks out daily.—*Eastern Budget.*

THE KINGDOM OF ITALY.—In last Friday's sitting of the Italian Parliament, the House, after discussing the declarations of the Ministers in reference to the material difficulties in the way of an immediate transfer of the capital to Rome, approved the Government proposition that the transfer should take place within six months. The entire bill for the transfer was passed by 192 against 18 votes. The Chamber also approved the motion which was brought forward by 200 members, expressing the gratitude of Florence for the patriotic conduct of the Romans during the siege. The Chamber then adjourned until the 16th of January.

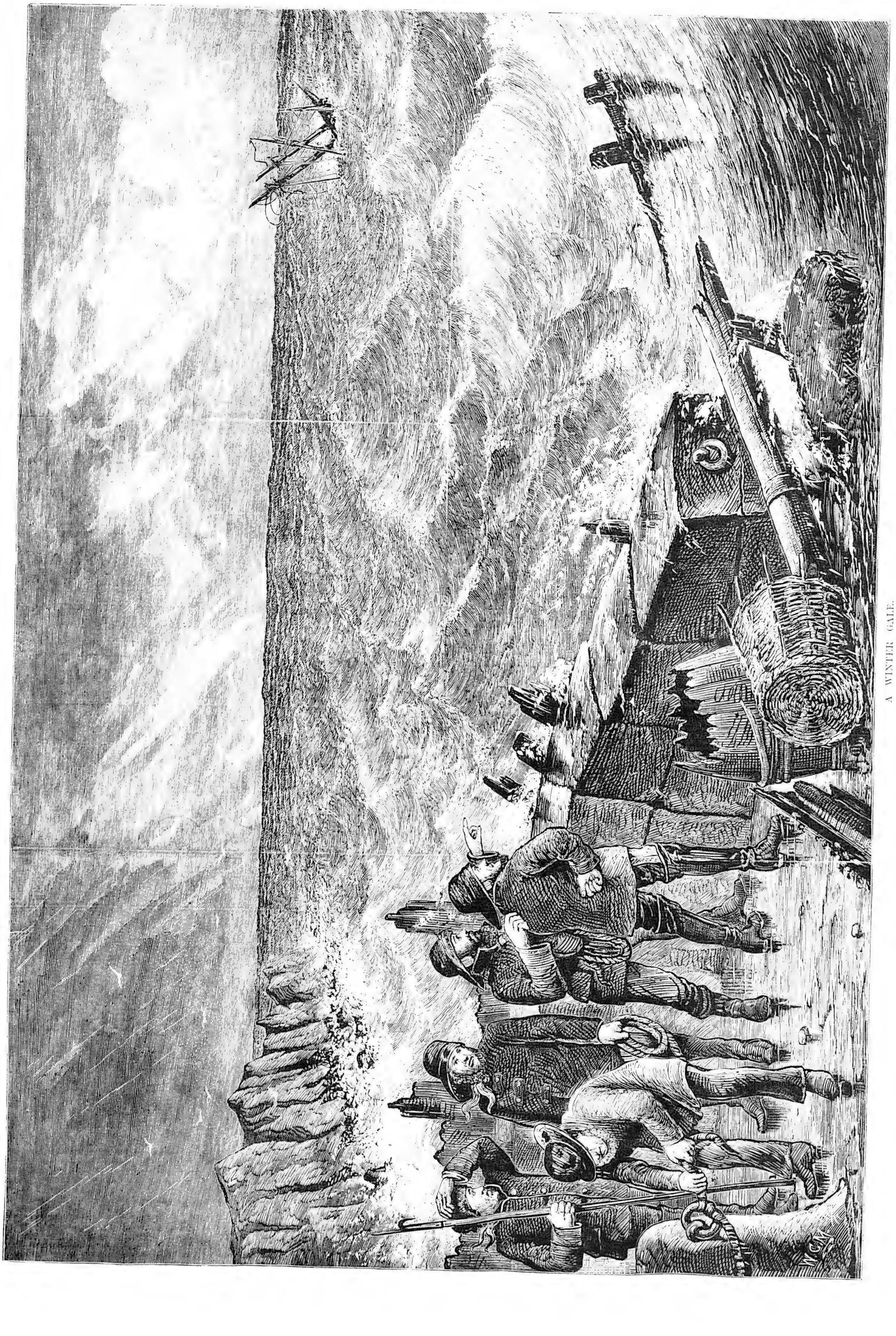
"Some months since my wife was suffering with a bad cough and severe pains in the chest, and totally unable to attend to her ordinary duties. She was advised to try Perry Davis's Pain Killer, and, after taking a few doses, was restored to perfect health, which she still enjoys. I also use it for piles, from which I have long suffered severely, and one dose (taken internally) has invariably given me relief. JAMES BRADSHAW, *Hopwood St., Liverpool, Dec. 26, 1867.*—To Perry Davis & Son."



ARABIAN.



THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.—To be Continued.

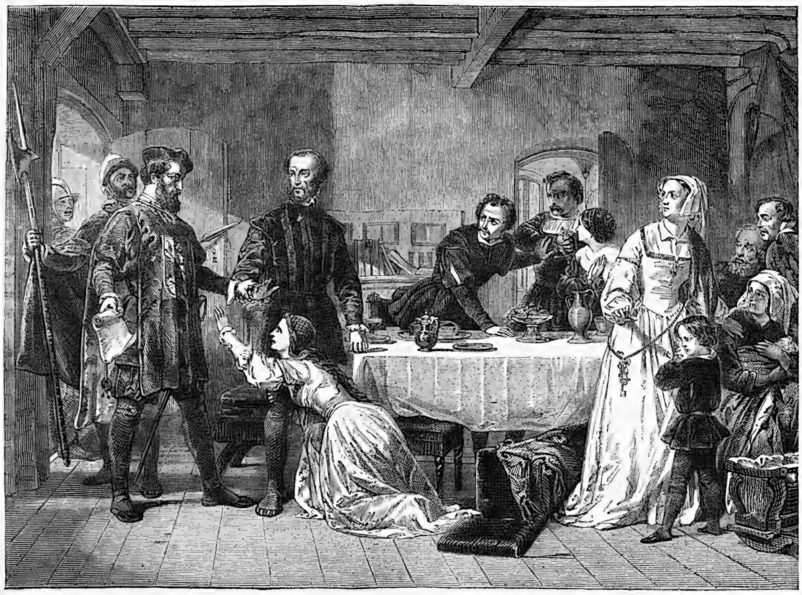


A WINTER GALE.

JOHN BROWN THE MARTYR.

The story of John Brown the Martyr, the scene of whose arrest on a charge of heresy is depicted on this page, is thus graphically and vividly told by D'Aubigne, in his "History of the Reformation:"—In the spring of 1557, a priest happened to be on board the passage-boat from London to Gravesend with an intelligent and pious Christian of Ashford, by name John Brown. The priest, turning towards Brown, said to him insolently: "You are too near me, get farther off. Do you know who I am?" "No, sir," answered Brown. "Well, then, you must know that I am a priest." "Indeed, sir; are you a parson, or vicar, or a lady's chaplain?" "No; I am a *soul-priest*," he haughtily replied; "I sing mass to save souls." "Do you, sir?" rejoined Brown somewhat ironically; "that is well done; and can you tell me where you find the soul when you begin the mass?" "I cannot," said the priest. "And where you leave it when the mass is ended?" "I do not know." "What!" continued Brown, with marks of astonishment, "you do not know where you find the soul or where you leave it, . . . and yet you say that you save it!" "Go thy ways," said the priest angrily, "thou art a heretic, and I will be even with thee."

That day John Brown reached home. Three days later, his wife, Elizabeth, who had just left her chamber, went to church, dressed all in white, to return thanks to God for delivering her in the perils of childbirth. Her husband, assisted by her daughter Alice and the maid-servant, were preparing for their friends the feast usual on such occasions; and they had all of them taken their seats at table, joy beaming in every face, when the street-door was abruptly opened, and Chilton, the constable, accompanied by several of the archbishop's apparitors, seized upon the worthy townsman. All sprang from their seats in alarm; but the primate's officers pulled Brown out of the house, and placed him on horseback, tying his feet under the animal's belly. Brown was thrown into prison and there left for forty days. At the end of this time the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Rochester called before them the impudent fellow who doubted whether a priest's mass could save souls, and required him to retract this "blasphemy." But Brown, if he did not believe in the mass, believed in the Gospel: "Christ was once offered," he said, "to take away the sins of many. It is by this sacrifice we are saved, and not by the repititions of the priests." At this reply the archbishop made a sign to the executioners, one of whom took off the shoes and stockings of this pious Christian, while the other brought in a pan of burning coals, upon which they set the martyr's feet. The English, laws, in truth, forbade torture to be inflicted on any subject of the crown, but the clergy thought themselves above the laws. "Confess the efficacity of the mass," cried the two bishops to poor Brown. "If I deny my Lord upon earth," he replied, "He will deny me before His Father in Heaven." The flesh was burnt off the soles of the feet even to the bones, and still John Brown remained unshaken. The bishops, therefore, ordered him to be given over to the secular arm, that he might be burnt alive. On the Saturday preceding the festival of the Pentecost, in the year 1517, the martyr was led back to Ashford, where he arrived just as the day was drawing to a close. A number of idle persons were collected in the street, and among them was Brown's maid-servant, who ran off crying to the house, and told her mistress: "I have seen him! . . . He was bound, and they were taking him to prison." Elizabeth hastened to her husband, and found him sitting with his feet in the stocks, his features changed by suffering, and expecting to be burnt alive on the morrow. The poor woman sat down beside him, weeping most bitterly; while he, being hindered by his chains, could not so much as bend towards her. "I cannot set my feet to the ground," said he, "for bishops have burnt them to the bones; but they could not burn my tongue and prevent my confessing the Lord. . . . O Elizabeth! . . . continue to love Him, for He is good; and bring up onr children in His fear." On the following morning, the brutal Chilton and his assistants led Brown to the place of execution, and fastened him to the stake. Elizabeth and Alice, with his other children and his friends, desirous of receiving his last sigh, surrounded the pile, uttering cries of anguish. The fagots were set on fire, while Brown, calm and collected, and full of confidence in the blood of the Saviour, clasped his hands, and repeated the words of an old hymn. The martyr then was silent: the flames had consumed their victim. Then redoubled cries of anguish rent the air. His wife and daughter seemed as if they would lose their senses. The bystanders shewed them the tenderest compassion, and turned with a movement of indignation towards the executioners. The brutal Chilton perceiving this, cried out: "Come along; let us toss the heretic's children into the flames, lest they should one day spring from their father's ashes." He rushed towards Alice, and was about to lay hold of her, when the maiden shrank back screaming with horror. To the end of her life she recollected the fearful moment; and to her we are indebted for the particulars. The fury of the monster was checked. Such were the scenes passing in England shortly before the Reformation.

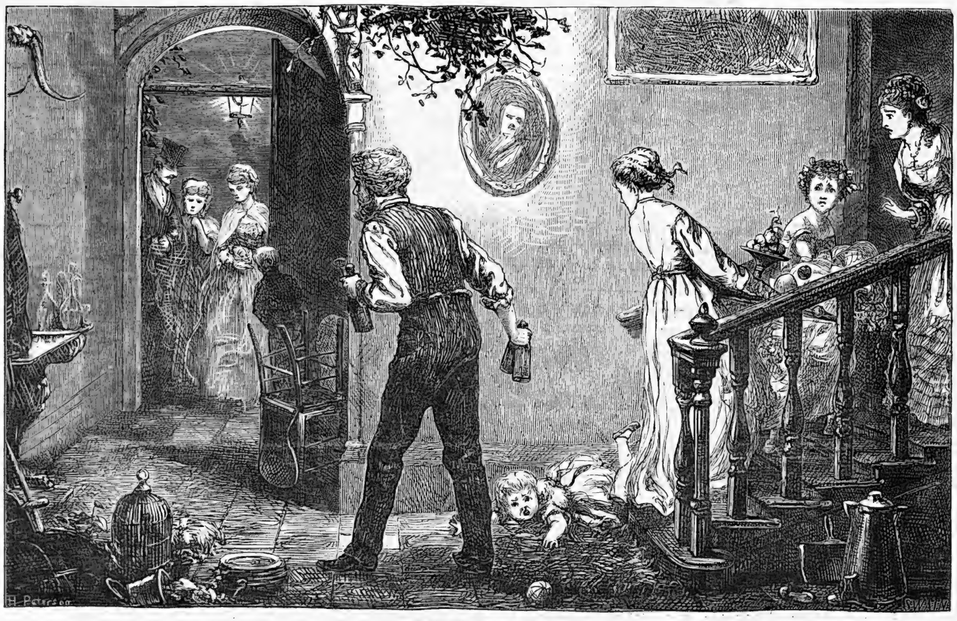


THE ARREST OF OF JOHN BROWN THE MARTYR.

The Neutrality of Luxembourg.—In his answer to Count Bismarck's Circular relative to the violation of neutrality by the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Lord Granville expresses his regret that the Grand Ducal Government should have given cause for the reclamations made by the Government of the North German Confederation. However, Earl Granville adds, that, before coming to a decided opinion upon the matter, he must await the expression of the views of the other Governments interested, and especially the justification of the Government of Luxemburg. The tone of the English despatch is friendly and concilatory; the English Goverment entertains the hope that Germany does not propose to renounce formally the Treaty of 1867, and that, in any case, she will be prepared to take part in deliberations in view of arriving at a pacific solution before taking any further steps. The reply of the Luxemburg Government to the note of Count Bismarck of the 3rd of December is dated the 14th inst. It complains of exaggerations on the part of the German Govennment, and asserts that Prussia had repeatedly recognised the scrupulous conduct of Luxemburg in maintaining its neutrality. The reply acknowledges that only one provision train freighted for another country was arrested by the Prussian military at the frontier; while thousands of trains loaded with provisions for the German armies, which had been purchased in Luxemburg had been forwarded by the Luxemburg Railway, and the carriages had not been returned, but used for the transport of German troops and material of war. The territory of the Grand Duchy, it is further averred, had been frequently invaded by German troops in arms; while the French Consul had merely facilitated the journey of necessitous Frenchmen to the neutral territory of Belgium. The Luxemburg despatch adds, that the guarantee of neutrality becomes simply worthless if repudiated by a single Power.

The Imperial Crown of Germany.—The *New German (Cross) Gazette* states that the British Envoy, Mr. Odo Russell, on the 18th instant, desired Count Bismarck to convey to the King of Prussia the congratulations of her Britannic Majesty's Government on the occasion of the request preferred by the German Princes, the Free Towns, and the North German Parliament, that the King of Prussia should accept the Imperial Crown.

The *Pesther Lloyd* positively contradicts the report that a separate convention has been entered into between Russia and Turkey with regard to the Black Sea Question. It attributes this report to the intrigues of General Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, and Khalilbey, the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, with both of whom the wish is father to the thought; but that no such convention is even in contemplation is best proved by the fact that Count Beust has gone to Vevey for eight days to visit his family there.—*Eastern Budget.*



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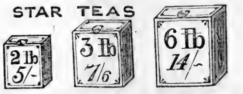

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BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent Street, London.

NOTICE.—1,300 PIECES for CHARITIES, of good wide Aberdeen Winceys and Monks-Eleigh Linseys, at 25s., 27s., and 35s. piece of 54 to 60 yards each. Piece sent for P.O. order to BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent Street, London.

SILK VELVETS EXTRAORDINARILY CHEAP.
The War Panic has enabled BAKER and CRISP to buy and now offer the most extraordinary bargains ever seen in Black Lyons Silk Velvets,
viz., £2 14s. to 5 gs. Full Dress. [123

REMINISCENCES OF MARK LEMON.

Shortly, Cloth, 5s.

WITH A SHOW IN THE NORTH. By Joseph Hatton. Together with MARK LEMON'S LAST SONG, his Revised Text of Falstaff, and PORTRAIT IN COSTUME. Reprinted, with Additions, from the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

"Mr. Hatton's interesting reminiscences of Mark Lemon."—*Illustrated London News*.

"The Reminiscences of Mark Lemon have lately been one of the chief features of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and Chapter V. is not the least attraction of the present number."—*Examiner*.

"A series of articles which are read with real zest." —*Birmingham Daily Gazette*.

NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.

BRYAN AND MOULTON,
GLASS MANUFACTURERS,
AND CHINA MERCHANTS,
BIRMINGHAM.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—GREAT ADVANTAGES to Furnishers in GLASS and CHINA by going to the NEW GLASS AND CHINA WAREHOUSE,
10, WORCESTER STREET.

	s.	d.		Gs.
CHEAP AND GOOD TOILET SETS	3	6	to	6
CHEAP AND GOOD DINNER SETS	12	6	to	40
CHEAP AND GOOD DESSERT SETS	10	6	to	10
CHEAP AND GOOD BREAKFAST SETS	4	6	to	6
CHEAP AND GOOD TEA SETS.				

Beautiful Bohemians and Alabaster Figures and Vases. French and German Goods, suitable for Presents.

NOTED FOR WEDDING AND BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.
RUSTIC FERNERIES, VASES, &c., &c.

OPAL AND GLASS LETTERS FOR SHOP WINDOWS, KEPT IN STOCK.
THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

1, *QUEEN'S BUILDINGS, WORCESTER STREET.* [136

LIST OF AGENTS FOR THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS.

Astwood Bank	Mr. Perkins
Bath	,, Chivers
Bilston	,, Fereday
Birmingham	Messrs. Smith and Son, Mr. Willey, &c.
Burton	Messrs. Whitehurst
Bromsgrove	Mr. Palmer
Coventry	,, Horsfall
Cradley Heath	,, Forrest
Darlaston	,, Slater
Derby	,, Harwood
Droitwich	,, Smith
Dudley	,, Hutchings
Edinburgh	Messrs. Menzies and Co.
Erdington	Mr. Pearson
Evesham	Messrs. Smith
Gloucester	,, Goulding
Halesowen	,, Hodgetts
Hanley	,, Timmis
Handsworth	,, Jones
Hereford	Messrs. Head and Hull
Kenilworth	Miss Evans
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Leamington	,, Arthur
Leicester	,, Hewitt
Leeds	,, Summergill
Liverpool	,, Doran
Manchester	,, J. Heywood
Nottingham	Miss Clayton
Oldbury	Mr. Lowe
Oxford	,, Harvey
Redditch	,, Heming
Rugeley	,, Manners
Sheffield	,, Weston
Small Heath	,, D. L. Marks.
Smethwick	,, Durose
Stafford	Messrs. Wright
Stoke	Mr. Woolley
Stourbridge	,, Field
Stratford	,, Paine
Tipton	,, Britten
Walsall	,, Wilkes
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Wednesbury	,, Hillier
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The Paper is supplied at the stalls of Messrs. Smith and Sons throughout the Kingdom.

GLENFIELD STARCH is the only kind used in Her Majesty's Laundry.

Those ladies who have not yet used the Glenfield Starch are respectfully solicited to give it a trial, and carefully follow out the directions printed on every package, and they will say, like the Queen's laundress, it is the finest Starch they ever used. [846

TRADE MARK

M. J. ROTHSCHILD,
Midland
WATCH MANUFACTORY,
Wholesale and for Exportation,
15, CAROLINE STREET,
BIRMINGHAM. [455

E. F. GRIFFIN & CO.,
Manufacturers of
GOLD PLATING, WIRE, TUBE,
Ornaments, Beads, Gold and Silver Solder, Gold Alloys, Compositions, &c., &c.
DIE SINKERS,
TOOL MAKERS, STAMPERS, AND PIERCERS,
82, *SPENCER STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [65

SHELLARD AND HODGSON'S

ONE GUINEA

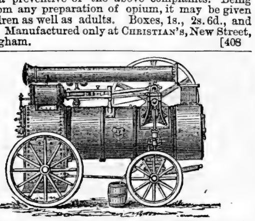
TWEED WATERPROOF

CLOAKS AND COSTUMES.

82, *HIGH STREET,*

BIRMINGHAM. [735

CHRISTIAN'S PATE DE LICHEN, in the form of Lozenges, removes phlegm, and gives relief in most disorders of the voice, throat, and chest. In colds, accompanied by cough, hoarseness, and the peculiar tickling and dryness in the throat usually called huskiness, its beneficial effects are felt almost immediately. If taken on leaving heated rooms, it will often be found a preventive of the above complaints. Being free from any preparation of opium, it may be given to children as well as adults. Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. Manufactured only at CHRISTIAN'S, New Street, Birmingham. [408



PORTABLE STEAM ENGINES,
MORTAR MILLS,
HAND MORTISING MACHINES, LATHES,
DRILLING MACHINES, &c., &c.,
FOR PARTICULARS APPLY TO
W. H. PEARSON, ENGINEER,
50, *ANN STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [941

PATENT TEETH ON SOFT GUMS.
MR. WILLIAM J. WATSON,
SURGEON DENTIST,
(Many years Assistant to Mr. ESKELL, of Bennett's Hill.)

Supplies every description of Artificial Teeth and Gums so largely advertised, at about one-third of the usual charges, being the *actual maker.*

SINGLE TEETH FROM 3s. 6d.,
SETS FROM £2 10s., INCLUDING ALL CHARGES.
Only address, [40
16, *NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*

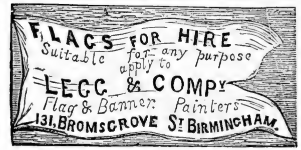
TURKISH, VAPOUR, SULPHUR, AND MEDICATED BATHS,
No. 14, *CRESCENT, CAMBRIDGE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*

Open daily for Ladies and Gentlemen (Sundays excepted) from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m.

LIST OF TERMS ON APPLICATION.

N.B.—The only Establishment in the Midland Counties where you can have such a variety of Baths for the purposes of luxury and health.

JAMES MELLING, *Proprietor.*
MISS MELLING, *Superintendent of the Ladies' Department.*
909]



[9

JOSEPH GILLOTT'S
STEEL PENS.
Sold by all Dealers throughout the World.
[511

THE EAST INDIA TEA COMPANY, 9, Great St. Helen's, Bishopgate-street, London, appoint Agents in every Town for the sale of their Teas. A good living may be made by this Agency. Apply for Prospectus as above. [853

NEXT OF KIN.—1871 Edition.—Now Ready, a Classified and Descriptive INDEX (of 20,000 names guaranteed) to Advertisements for Next of Kin, Chancery Heirs, Legatees, &c., from 1,700 to 1,871, post free 32 stamps. Address, Mr. CULLMER, 17, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. [858

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

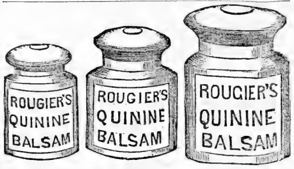
MISS DRAPER, BERLIN AND FANCY REPOSITORY, from 24, BENNETT'S HILL, to 81, NEW STREET, OPPOSITE THE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS. [131

HUNT'S ECONOMICAL MOURNING AND FUNERAL WAREHOUSE,
94, *BULL STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*
BLACK SILKS, Deep and Half Mourning Dresses of Every Description.
SHAWLS, MANTLES, BONNETS, CAPS, and all kinds of Mourning Fancy Goods.
FUNERALS conducted with economy in any part of the country. [456

W. AND H. DEW,
SUCCESSORS TO RICHARD LLOYD,
GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSEMEN AND UNDERTAKERS,
33, *NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*
[655

CANTHARIDINE
RESTORATIVE
FOR THE HAIR

Prepared by
H. PEDLEY, FAMILY CHEMIST,
29, *HORSE FAIR, BIRMINGHAM.*
In 1s. and 2s. 6d. Bottles. [88



One Shilling. Two Shillings. Three Shillings.

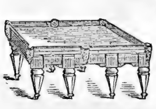
QUININE BALSAM.

THIS PREPARATION is used for Restoring and Preserving the Hair, preventing its falling off or discolouring, also retaining its moisture longer than any other preparation of the kind, giving a beautifully brilliant lustre to the Hair, and preserving the Curl.

Coarse Hair it renders soft and silky, more pleasant to the feel and pliable to Curl, and must supersede all other articles professing the same qualities.

Prepared only by J. ROUGIER, Wholesale Perfumer, 55, UNION PASSAGE, Birmingham. Sold in Bottles at 1s. 2s. and 3s. each. N.B.—Every known Article for the Toilet always on Stock. [37

CHARLES ALLDRIDGE AND SON



MANUFACTURERS OF BILLIARD TABLES, BAGATELLE TABLES.
Works & Show Room:
REGENT PARADE, CAROLINE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.
[594

THE
GREAT WESTERN HOTEL,
(Snow Hill Station.)
BIRMINGHAM.

"One of the most elegant, comfortable, and economical Hotels in the three kingdoms."—
The Field, July 31 [691

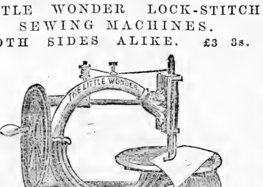
SUFFIELD'S DINING ROOMS
AND
LUNCHEON BAR,
UNION PASSAGE, BIRMINGHAM.
[754

WILLCOX AND GIBBS'

TRIAL
BEFORE
PURCHASE

SILENT
SEWING MACHINE.
MACHINES TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.
Machines on Hire.
T. S. TONGUE,
Sole Agent,
3, *BULL STREET,*
BIRMINGHAM. [426

SLATER & CO.'S
LITTLE WONDER LOCK-STITCH SEWING MACHINES.
BOTH SIDES ALIKE. £3 3s.



REDUCTION in PRICE of SEWING MACHINES, with all the latest Improvements. The Wheeler and Wilson's, £5 10s.; No 2 Howe's, £6 10s.; No. 2, Thomas's, £7; Patching Machines, for Repairing Old Boots, or general work, £8. Any other make repaired or altered. Second-hand Machines, £2. —N.B. Slater and Co.'s Manufactory, 18 and 19, Edmund Street, near the Town Hall. [36

JOHN NEILUS,
GENERAL DECORATOR.
5, *MOAT ROW*
SMITHFIELD,
BIRMINGHAM.
BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION
PRESENTED TO
JOHN NEILUS
BIRMINGHAM
Dealer in all kinds of Paper Hangings. [127

PIESSE & LUBIN'S
CHEF D'ŒUVRE

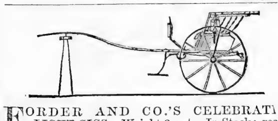
"In peace love tunes the shepherd's reed,
In war he mounts the warrior's steed."

LOVE-LORNE

"Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,
E'en conquerors feel the power of love."

ATELIER DES FLEURS,
2, New Bond Street, London.

[125



FORDER AND CO.'S CELEBRATED LIGHT GIGS. Weight 3 cwt. In Stock; ready to take home with you.—CARRIAGE WORKS, WOLVERHAMPTON. [150

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15 Years Foreman to HOLLINGSWORTH & SCRUTON.
D. CRANE,
TROUSERS & HUNTING BREECHES MAKER,
82, *NEW STREET.* [132

PATENT METALLIC AIR-TIGHT COFFINS, combining all the advantages of Wood, Shell, and Lead and Oak Coffins, can be obtained *at once* on application to the Head Office of the

PATENT METALLIC AIR-TIGHT COFFIN COMPANY,
158, *GREAT CHARLES STREET*
BIRMINGHAM.
Prices, &c., sent post free. [503

PROTECTION FROM FIRE
BRYANT & MAY'S
TRADE MARK
LIGHT ONLY ON THE BOX
TRADE MARK
PATENT SAFETY MATCHES
THE PUBLIC ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST
DANGEROUS IMITATIONS
[410

THE BIRMINGHAM MOURNING AND FUNERAL WAREHOUSE.
42, *NEW STREET.*
EVERY description of MOURNING ATTIRE.
BLACK SILKS, IN THE GREATEST VARIETY.
SHOW ROOMS FOR MOURNING MILLINERY.
MANTLES AND DRESSMAKING.
Funerals efficiently and economically CONDUCTED in every part of the country.
BACH AND BARKER,
PROPRIETORS.
[675

USED IN HER MAJESTY'S KITCHEN,
Sold Everywhere.
YEATMANS
YEAST
POWDER.
In 1d., 2d., & 3d. packets, and 6d. canisters.
AND IN THE ARMY AND NAVY. [43
Sold in Family Packets at 1s., 2s. 6d., and 5s.

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR when light Wines, so acceptable in warm weather, give place to those possessing properties more suited to the temperature being at hand, we again have the pleasure of directing attention to our

DINNER SHERRY,
24s. PER DOZEN,

The extensive use of which is a proof of the estimation in which it is held, and is an additional incentive to renewed efforts to keep up the quality.

INNES, SMITH, AND COMPANY,
28, *HIGH STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [161

PALFREYS, 4, BULL RING, BIRMINGHAM.—JEWELLERS' and PAWNBROKERS' CELEBRATED WINDOW MARKS.

An Endless Variety for Stationers', Tobacconists', and Fancy Trades.
WINDOW
TICKETS
FOR ALL
TRADES
First-class Tickets for Birmingham and Sheffield Goods.

China and Glass Warehouses.
Grocers, Drapers, and Outfitters. The most effective and cheapest ever produced.
Largest variety in the World from 6d. the gross.
[138

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES REPOSITORY,
No 1, CHEAPSIDE, BIRMINGHAM.

MR. J. M. CLAYWORTH begs to inform Noblemen, Gentlemen, and the Public in general, that he will hold his next STUD SALES on
THURSDAY, January 5th; and on
THURSDAY, January 19th.
Sales by Auction every Thursday; by Private Treaty, Daily. [35

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS. —The Committee of the Birmingham Canal Company are prepared to RECEIVE OFFERS of LOANS, at Four per cent. per annum, for periods of three, five, or seven years, or to be repayable at six months' notice.

The Committee are also prepared to receive Applications for the issue at par of the Company's Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, to be inscribed on the Books of the Company in the names of applicants, free of all expense.

A Commission of ½ (one half) per cent. is allowed to applicants.

Any amount of Stock, not being a fraction of a pound, can be subscribed for and transferred.

Applications to be made to Mr. Robert Thomas, Clerk to the Company, at the Navigation Office, Paradise Street, Birmingham. [104

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS. —CONSOLIDATION OF SHARES INTO STOCK.—Notice is hereby given, that the TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 31st December, 1870, until the 7th January, 1871, for the purpose of preparing the necessary Stock Cupons.

ROBERT THOMAS, *Clerk to the Company.*
20th December, 1870. [172

J. AND L. MOLE,
OLD-ESTABLISHED WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
Beg to inform the Public that they ARE NOT CONNECTED with any other firm in New Street.
36, *NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM*
(Exactly opposite the Railway Station).
[101

CARPETS, CURTAINS, CABINET FURNITURE.

GEORGE DIACK, 212 and 213, OXFORD STREET, W., invites public attention to his Stock of Carpets, comprising all the manufactures for Dining-Rooms, Libraries, Drawing-Rooms, and Chambers; to a unique collection of Silk Fabrics from the most approved Factories of Lyons and Spitalfields.

CABINET FURNITURE OF FIRST-CLASS MAKE.
BEDSTEADS AND BEDDING SUITABLE FOR THE MANSION OR COTTAGE.
212 *and* 213, *OXFORD STREET, W.* [102

TOOTHACHE, HEADACHE, NEURALGIA. —HODGES "SOZODONTA" is the only certain Cure for Toothache without touching the Tooth. Headache and Neuralgia relieved immediately. Enclose 15 stamps. London Depôt, 4, Featherstone Buildings, Holborn.

AGENTS WANTED. [923

OZOKERIT---OZOKERIT
(PATENTED.)
The New and Beautiful Candles

made of this mineral will be found to far surpass any that have yet been introduced, possessing marvellous brilliancy of light, and burning to the end without bending, though placed in the hottest and most crowded rooms. They resemble in appearance the very whitest bleached beeswax, also in odour, whence the name, from the Greek *Ozo,* I smell of, and *Keros,* wax, They will be found a great boon and ornament to all

ASSEMBLY AND BALL ROOMS,

The intense heat and injury caused by the use of gas to gilding and pictures being avoided by their use. Their great hardness adapts them for all climates. To be had in all sizes 1s. 3d. per lb.

Order of your Chemist, Grocer or Chandler, and insist on using no others. The Patentees,

J. C. & J. FIELD,
UPPER MARSH, LAMBETH, LONDON,

Who supply the trade only, will be happy to answer any inquiry as to the nearest agency where these wonderful Candles can be obtained.

JOHN GOSNELL AND CO.'S CHERRY TOOTH PASTE is greatly superior to any Tooth Powder, gives the Teeth a pearl-like whiteness, protects the enamel from decay, and imparts a pleasing fragrance to the breath. Price 1s.6d. per pot. Angel Passage, 93, Upper Thames-street, London. [852

HAWKES AND ROLANDI,
LOOKING GLASS MANUFACTURERS,

CARVERS & GILDERS
125, *BROMSGROVE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*
[83

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA,

BRONCHITIS, and NEURALGIA,

THE GREAT REMEDY of the day is Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE; a few doses will cure all incipient cases. Caution—The extraordinary medical reports on the efficacy of Chlorodyne renders it of vital importance that the public should obtain the "genuine," which is now sold under the protection of Government authorising a stamp bearing the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne," without which none are genuine. See decision of Vice Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood, the *Times,* July 16, 1864. Sold in bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d., by all Chemists. Sole Manufacturer, J. T. DAVENPORT, 33, Great Russel Street, London, W.C.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. Extract from *Medical Times* January 12, 1866— "Is prescribed by scores of orthodox practitioners. Of course it would not be thus singularly popular did it not supply a want and fill a place."

From Lord Francis Conyngham, Mount Charles, Donegal, December 11, 1868.

"LORD FRANCIS CONYNGHAM, who this time last year bought some of Dr. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne from Mr. Davenport, and has found it a most powerful Medicine, will be glad to have half-a-dozen bottles sent at once to the above address."

SOLE MANUFACTURER, J. T. DAVENPORT,
33, *GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON.* [54

NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE.—AGUA AMARELLA restores the human hair to its pristine hue, no matter at what age. J. GOSNELL AND CO. have at length, with the aid of one of the most eminent chemists, succeeded in perfecting this wonderful liquid. It is now offered to the public in a more concentrated form, and at a lower price. Sold in bottles at 3s. each, also 5s., 7s. 6d., and 15s. each, including brush. [851

COUNTRY LADIES AND LONDON FASHIONS.—The many advertisements of the day, addressed frequently to the inexperienced, whilst they appear to offer facilities, only perplex ladies residing at a distance from the metropolis; nay, all Londoners themselves.

To assist suburban and remote customers, Messrs. JAY transmit patterns by post, or otherwise, and ladies may rest assured that the specimens and the goods will literally agree; and that in dealing with the old-established firm of Messrs. JAY they will buy at as cheap a cost as in any shop in London.

MESSRS. JAY have experienced Dressmakers and Milliners who act as Travellers, so that, in the event of immediate mourning being required, or any other sudden emergency for dress, one can be despatched to any part of the kingdom on receipt of letter or telegram, without any expense to the purchaser. All articles are marked in plain figures, and charges are the same as if the goods were bought for ready money at the warehouse in Regent Street.

Messrs. JAY having adopted a fixed tariff, publish the following epitome of their charges for

DRESSMAKING.	s.	d.
Making Dress, with plain Skirt	10	6
Making Dress with Tucks of Crape or Fancy Trimmings, from	14	3
Making Bodice and Mounting Skirt into band	7	6
Making Widow's Bodice, ditto, ditto	8	0
Mounting Skirt into Band, with Alpaca Pocket	1	6
Mounting ditto ditto, with Black Silk Pocket	2	6
Mounting ditto ditto, without Pocket	1	0
Silk Body Lining	5	6
Silk Sleeve Lining	3	6
Silk Low Body and Sleeve Lining	5	6
Lawn Body Lining	1	6
Sleeve Lining	1	0
Silk Facing	1	10½
Petersham Ribbon for Banding	0	8
Petersham Waistband, Covered Crape and Rosette	2	6
Making Garibaldi	6	0
Making Low Bodice	6	0
Sundries	1	6

Tucker, Braid, and Trimmings Extra.

THE
LONDON GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE,
247, 249, and 251, *REGENT STREET.*
JAYS'. [877

COMPANION TO THE SICK ROOM.—The QUEEN'S LAVENDER WATER, the most Fragrant, Refreshing, and Lasting of Perfumes. J. PROCTER (late Thonger and Gray), 104, Broad Street, Islington, Birmingham. [27

PIANOFORTES AND HARMONIUMS.

The Best of every Description, at very Moderate Charges,
For Sale or Hire, and on
"The Three Years' System."

HARRISON AND HARRISON,

COLMORE ROW AND BENNETT'S HILL,
BIRMINGHAM.

GREAT MIDLAND MUSIC WAREHOUSE.

All New Music as soon as Published, Half Price and Post Free. [117

BEST SILKS ONLY.

CHAPMAN'S IMPERIAL BLACK SILKS.

CHAPMAN'S IMPERIAL BLACK·SILKS WARRANTED
TRADE MARK.

The increasing demand for these unequalled goods and the testimonials continually received from all parts of the world have induced us to have our registered trade mark stamped upon each dress.

The prices vary from 3½ to 6 Guineas the full Robe of 12 yards, and

We hold ourselves responsible for the wear of every such Dress bearing our name.

MANUFACTURERS AND MERCERS, LONDON AND LYONS.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

LONDON ADDRESS FOR PATTERNS:

CHAPMAN'S, NOTTING-HILL, W.

We have at the present time several thousand pounds' worth of these unrivalled Silks.

PRIZE MEDAL IRISH POPLINS.

Messrs. PIM BROS.' superior manufacture. JAMES CHAPMAN'S of Notting-hill, W., is the only house in England where you can obtain genuine IRISH POPLINS at £3 6s. the dress of 12 yards. [193

SAFE INVESTMENTS FOR CAPITAL.

Dividends 10 to 20 per Cent.

Read SHARP'S INVESTMENT CIRCULAR *(Post Free).*

(THIS MONTH'S NUMBER NOW READY.)

It contains all the best-paying and safest Stock and Share Investments of the day.

SHAREHOLDERS, INVESTORS, TRUSTEES, CAPITALISTS,
Will find the above Investment Circular a safe, valuable, and reliable Guide.

Messrs. SHARP & CO., Stock and Share Brokers, 33, Poultry, London, E.C. (Established 1852).
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, London, E.C. [419

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

EPPS'S COCOA.

BREAKFAST.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette.*

Made simply with boiling water or milk.

Sold only in ¼ lb., ½ lb., and 1 lb. tin-lined packets, labelled— [959
JAMES EPPS & CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

Established upwards of Half a Century.

MR. GABRIEL,

THE OLD-ESTABLISHED RESIDENT DENTIST,
Has Removed from 65, *New Street, to*
11, *BENNETT'S HILL,* 11,
(Next to the Bank of England),
WHERE HE IS IN DAILY ATTENDANCE FROM 9 *a.m., UNTIL* 6 *p.m.*

Single Teeth from 5s. Complete Set from £5.

N.B.—Only one Visit required from Country Patients. Notice particularly Name and Address. [115

WIDE VELVETEENS, bright and soft as Silk. Sacrificed at 2s. 6d., usually sold at 4s. 6d. per yard. Patterns sent.

HARVEY & CO.,
LAMBETH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

FRENCH MERINOS.—FINEST Quality and Double Width, at 2s. per yard, in every Fashionable Colour and Black. It may be important for Ladies to know "That this is the last time of asking." All weavers in France are soldiers; manufacturing goods there is an affair of the past. Merino is made in no other country, and the price may be doubled during the winter. Help yourselves Ladies, while you may Patterns sent.

HARVEY & CO.,
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DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.—The best remedy for acidity of the stomach, heart-burn, headache, gout, and indigestion, and the best mild aperient for delicate constitutions, especially adapted for ladies, children, and infants.

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ORIENTAL TOOTH PASTE, established by forty years' experience as the most effectual preservative of the Teeth and Gums. Sold universally, in pots at 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. each. None genuine unless signed Jewsbury & Brown, Manchester. [889

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LISTS FREE. [181

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55, *MORTIMER STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE,* W.

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DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

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Take four ounces (or four full-sized table-spoonfuls) of the Flour, and one quart of milk, sweetened to the taste, then add a pinch of salt. Mix a portion of the milk (cold) with the Flour into a thin paste; then add the remainder hot, with a piece of lemon-peel or cinnamon. Boil gently for eight to ten minutes, well stirring it all the time, and (after taking out the peel) pour it into a mould to cool. Serve with preserved fruit, jelly, &c.

BAKED PUDDING.

Three ounces (or three full-sized table-spoonfuls) of the Flour to a quart of milk. Mix and boil in the same manner as for Blanc-mange. When cool add two eggs, previously well-beaten, stir them well together, and bake for about half an hour.

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Mix two full-sized tea-spoonfuls of the Flour with a little cold water into a paste. Add half a pint of hot milk and water, sweeten to the taste, and boil for about five minutes. To be used warm.

CUP-PUDDING FOR INFANTS.

Mix a full-sized dessert-spoonful of the Flour with half a pint of milk, a lump of sugar, and a pinch of salt. Boil for eight minutes (stirring it all the time), and then add one egg well beaten. Mix thoroughly, and pour into a buttered cup, tie up in a cloth, and again boil for about ten minutes. Serve it hot.

BOILED CUSTARD.

Take two full-sized table-spoonfuls of the Flour and a quart of milk, sweetened to the taste. Mix a little of the milk cold with the Flour; flavour it, and add two eggs, beaten up, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, a pinch of salt, and a small piece of butter. Add the remainder of the milk hot, and boil altogether for three minutes, stirring quickly.

CAKE.

Eight ounces of the Flour, three of butter, six of sugar, three eggs thoroughly well beaten, and a tea-spoonful of baking powder. Mix well, and bake in patty-tins.

OTHER WAYS OF USING THE FLOUR.

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As CORN-FLOUR CREAM, prepare in the usual way.

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—*The Civil Service Gazette.*

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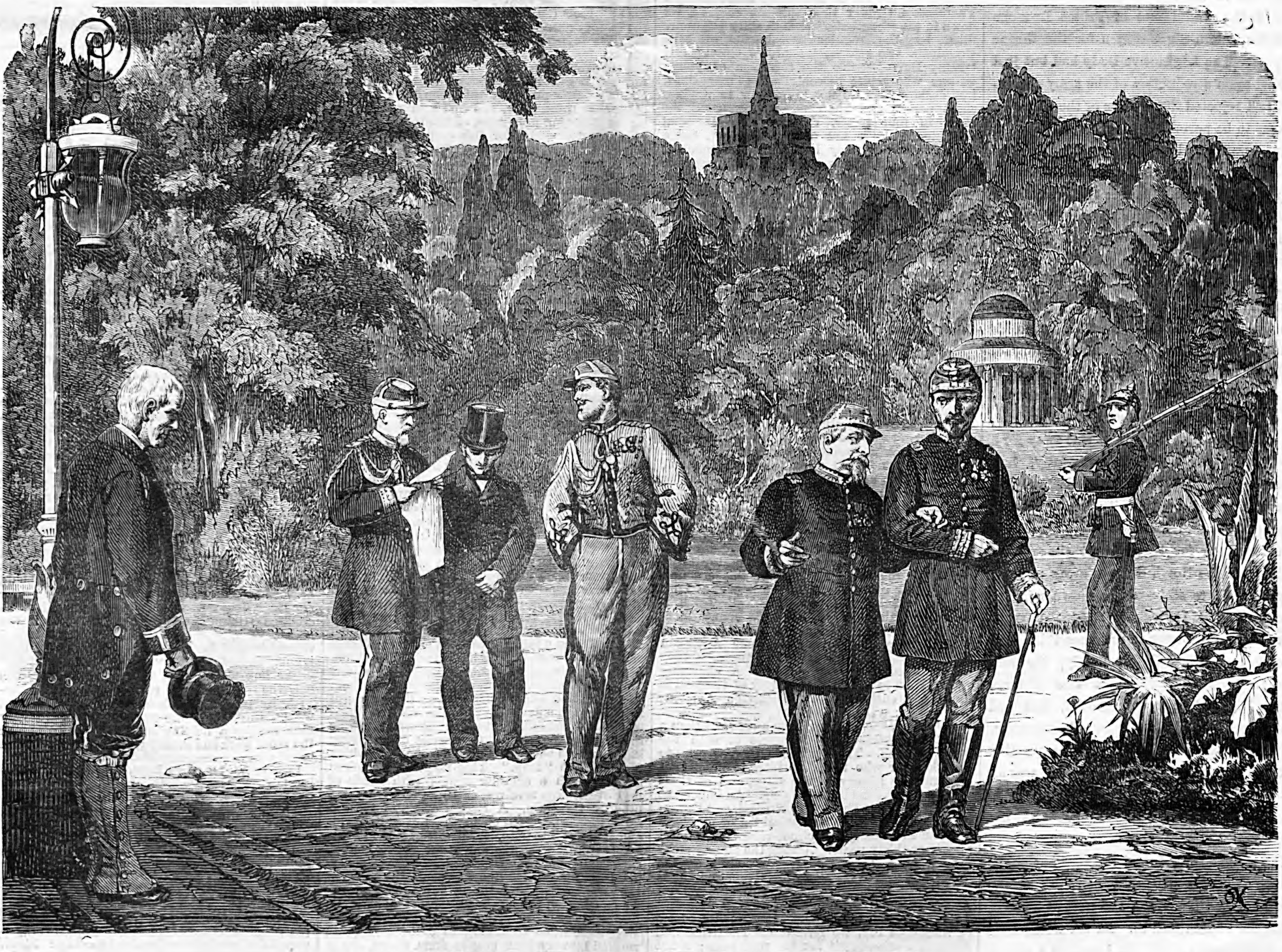
Printed by GEORGE WILLIAMS, at Market Hall Passage, and published by him at 108, New Street, Birmingham.—*December* 31, 1870.

Illustrated Midland News.

No. 70.—Vol. III. [REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.] SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1870. [WITH COLOURED PICTURE, AND SUPPLEMENT.] Threepence.

FROM THE TUILERIES TO WILHELMSHOE.

The clever Prussian artist, Herr Otto Knille, who has contributed many war sketches to this and other illustrated papers in England and Germany, filled a page of his note-book with the view which we present below while the leaves were still upon the trees; but in all other respects the illustration of the ex-Emperor in captivity is as true to fact upon the 31st of December as it was two or three months ago. Napoleon III. is still at the Schloss near Cassel, and continues to watch with melancholy earnestness the progress of the conquest of France. On this last day of the year, while the sands of the three hundred and sixty-fifth day are running out, we may be certain that the imperial captive—brooding and reflective man as he is—looking back over the months that have gone by since the first of January, will contrast his own fortunes and the positions of France at the two periods, and take mental note—not for the first nor indeed for the first hundredth time—of the extraordinary course of events from the beginning to the end of the year. To-morrow will be New Year's Day—a great festival in France. It is the morning of presents, and friendly calls, and family meetings and congratulations. It is the day when, for nearly twenty years, Napoleon III. has been wont to receive the ambassadors from foreign courts at the Tuileries, generally with an expression of cordiality and goodwill intended to be conveyed to their respective government. On the first of January, 1870, every word which the French Emperor addressed to the gentlemen of the Diplomatic Body assembled in Paris was an assurance of fraternity and peace. Never a year has dawned since the battle of Sadowa in which Bonaparte had so little anticipation of war. He seems, indeed, to have grown somewhat tired of the watch that had been maintained between France and Prussia for the last four years. His hands were full of home politics. He was in the midst of momentous changes which he knew would fully occupy his attention for the next twelve months. He was, indeed, eager for a truce with the Count Von Bismarck, and quite early in the year he availed himself of the friendly offices of the late Lord Clarendon as a mediator of peace between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin. He offered to reduce his army contingent if King William would do the same, but the King's Minister refused. This is a bitter memory for the ex-Emperor. He knows now what he did not see with sufficient clearness then, that the toils of the giant Power were closing around him, and it behoved him to beware. He knows now what it meant when King William, addressing his Parliament at its prorogation in May, congratulated the Deputies on the fact that the military organization of the North German Confederation was at last complete. To determine resolutely upon going to war, as the Emperor did on the first of January, 1859, is a sufficiently hazardous experiment; but to drift into war as he permitted himself to drift in 1870, after an utter defeat in a diplomatic duel with Bismarck, was certain to result in disaster. Bonaparte, however, was not wholly cognizant of what was going on outside France, tending to bring about a cataclysm of which he and his country were to be the victims. It was the fault of the Imperial system that, at home



THE EX-EMPEROR AND HIS SURROUNDINGS AT WILHELMSHOE.

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and abroad, he had to watch everything himself, and when his attention was absorbed in one direction there was certain to be neglect in another. The Emperor had much to occupy his mind in the early days of the year. The virtually enforced resignation of the Prefecture of the Seine by Baron Haussmann was an event of ill omen. The Prefect was inseparably associated with the Napoleonic improvement of the capital, and his retirement was a matter of deep regret, and an absolute loss to Napoleon. His reflections upon what seemed then to be a temporary arrest of the progress of those grand and costly works must have been bitter indeed had he foreseen what in a few months would happen to the splendid boulevards in which he had taken such pride. Having accepted M. Ollivier as his new constitutional Premier, and allowed himself to be committed to Ministerial rule, he left to M. Ollivier the formation of a Cabinet, and one of the conditions was the deposition of Baron Haussmann. Almost immediately followed the assassination of M. Victor Noir by Prince Pierre Bonaparte, at Auteuil, and then began the troubles arising out of the mad mob-leadership of M. Rochefort. Still these misfortunes seemed to move themselves off in a satisfactory manner. The new Ministry prospered. There was at least as much sympathy in the country for Prince Pierre as for the party who sought to avenge the death of Victor Noir. The trial of the Prince and its result met with general approval; and so unpardonably seditious was the conduct of Rochefort that his committal to prison was hailed by men of nearly all shades of opinion as an act of justice and wisdom. Then followed the second *senatus consultum* and the Plebiscité, in which nearly seven and a half millions voted "yes" to the Emperor and his reforms, while not more than one million voted "no." These home affairs led nearly up to the ever-memorable announcement of the candidature of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen for the throne of Spain. The Legislative Body had but just decided upon a reduction of the army contingent and rejected the petition of the Orleanist Princes to be permitted to return to France, when it was called upon to consider the effect of this new move in European affairs on the interests of France. This is the great break in the middle of the year which in the mind of the ex-Emperor separates the Tuileries from Wilhelmshoe. Looking back upon those early July days he must feel that he was plunged almost without a moment's reflection into the awful flood of war which ended his dynasty. He had dreamed of a successful conflict with the power of Prussia, but he did not expect it then. On a sudden, what seemed the gage of battle presented itself, and the old visions, which had been put away for a time, reappeared. Half doubtfully, half hopefully, the Emperor asked himself if this were the grand opportunity which was to come, and he and his counsellors appear to have forgotten for that instant the perfect readiness of the North German army and the very incomplete state of their own military organization. It took but three days to make the war. Begun in rashness, it led very quickly to ruin. Unfortunately, the first Foreign Minister under the new régime, Count Daru, had been removed, and had given place to the bellicose Duc de Gramont, whose first public declaration on the question of the Leopold candidature rendered war all but certain. It was useless afterwards to consider whether France should or should not express itself satisfied with the renunciation of the candidature, for at the very outset the French Minister had said more than the Count von Bismarck, on the part of Prussia, would have submitted to. In six weeks after the words were spoken, in less than a month from the departure of the Emperor from St. Cloud for the army of the Rhine, the Empire was no more; there had ceased to be a French army in the field, and Napoleon III. was a prisoner at Schloss Wilhelmshoe. This is the story that Bonaparte has to con to-day, by the light of many facts known better to him than to most of his contemporaries. His lot is in some degree more bitter than that of his uncle fifty-five years ago; for this man, we think, loves France better than ever did the Young Lieutenant of Artillery, and never did it happen to the first Emperor to know that through him such woe had befallen the land as that which has resulted from the fatal policy of July 1870.

In our picture the Emperor is hanging on the arm of his constant attendant, General Castelneau. The free-and-easy gentleman behind him is Napoleon's physician, Dr. Conneau. A little farther in the background stands the fine figure of Prince Murat, giving instructions to an Imperial Master-of-the-Horse. This is the life Napoleon has perforce been leading since the first week of September, while events have been in progress which it should have been his part to prevent.

LITERATURE.

The Winter Knitting and Crotchet Book. By Madame Le Boutillier. The figures illustrating the knitting and crotchet work are of a seasonable sort: woollen gloves, leggings, and the like, and a full description of all the stitches necessary in the making of them. The baby's gaiter has a remarkably warm appearance. Then there is the lady's "American Cloud," charming as well as comfortable, thrown over the head and shoulders of a pretty woman. And, lest anyone should be jealous, there is a very nice and becoming knitted woollen vest for gentlemen, with stitches for 325 "rows." We hope the industrious fingers trying the specimens in the book will not make the vest the last consideration.

THE JANUARY MAGAZINES.

Here is another "Christmas Number" of *Belgravia*. There is the "extra number," published early in December, which we noticed a month ago, and then, before Christmas Day, thinking we may have exhausted the festival magazine before the holiday comes, Miss Braddon makes haste to publish her January part, which is also specially associated with the season. *Belgravia* for January is a most successful example of the art of producing short articles. There are no fewer than thirteen subjects set down in the "contents," though sixty pages are filled by the regular instalments of Miss Braddon's two stories, "Fenton's Quest" and "Milly Darrell." To the attention of young writers who aspire to contribute to magazines, but declare they do not know how to produce short papers and sketches, we commend the story in four pages, called "The Hospital Mistletoe." It is not a mere incident, but a story, in considerably less than two hundred lines. The Christmas story of the number is written by Mr. Astley Baldwin, and is called "A Christmas Peal," a graceful but seasonable fiction; and quite as seasonable, in two or three senses, is Mr. Scoffern's popular scientific paper on "Condiments." Mr. Scoffern tells us all about pepper, and salt and mustard, and spices; how to get them good, and how to use them to advantage. Not many will pass by that article unread this Christmas time, for none of us are above giving the cook a lesson in her art. "The Haunted Rock" adds the element of the marvellous, while the sensational comes in the shape of an article on "Year One of the Republic," sent by balloon post by Mr. Whitehurst, well known as for many years the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Macmillan's, as might be expected, does not go very deeply into the Christmas festival. It recognises the intellectual demands of its readers, which require to be attended to not so much seasonably as in despite of the season. People must think and read upon the great topics of the time just as if the world was not making holiday, and no doubt a sufficient number will be found stealing away from mirthful scenes to a quiet fireside in the study, and perusing, with all possible zest, "M. Guizot on the Provisional Government and the French Nation," which is just what might be expected from that quarter, and none the worse reading on this account. Of a similar sort of topic is the paper by Lord Hobart, on the "Alabama Claims," which is not quite fair to Lord Hobart's countrymen, seeing how far we have gone in the hope of coming to a settlement with our American cousins, and with how little consideration they have treated us in the matter. A charming contribution to the literary history of the year is the paper entitled "Mr. Dickens's Amateur Theatricals: a Reminiscence."

The Era Almanack is rather an annual than a monthly magazine, but it comes in with the January batch. The book is a perfect prize to the playgoer who takes an interest in all that concerns the history of the stage, and of those who appear behind the footlights. An important element is the "Theatrical, Musical, and Equestrian Obituary," an alphabetical list of deaths of players, musicians, and circus-riders for the last twenty or thirty years. Among the more literary matter is a carefully-written review of the "Opera Season of 1870," by Mr. Gruneisen. This is followed by a long chronology of the "First Appearances in London of Actors and Actresses." Then, after a number of short tales and anecdotes of theatrical life, we have the "Theatrical and Musical Chronology" for the past year; a list of new pieces produced in those twelve months. in London and in the country: a Directory of Theatres, Music Halls, and Artistes; and more theatrical tales.

Taking a number of magazines in a parcel, we may recommend the *Churchman's Family Magazine* to Churchmen's families. The publication is exactly what its title would lead the reader to expect. We next turn to *Cassell's Magazine*, chiefly noted this month for the beginning of a new tale by Mrs. Riddell, called "Frank Sinclair's Wife." Since the conclusion of Mr. Wilkie Collins's "Man and Wife" this is the most promising element in *Cassell's Magazine*. We hope it will be the means of introducing the author of "George Geith" and the "Life's Assize" to a new class of readers—for she is worthy of higher honour in the literary world than has yet been awarded to her. This is a favourable time of year for calling attention to *Cassell's Household Guide*, of which the 15th part is before us. The lessons here given on "Paper Flower Making" are timely; diagrams are added to assist the student. The instructions for storing water, and making it sweet and keeping it so for household use, should be welcome just now, when a good deal of our water for domestic use is frozen up. *Cassell's Book of Birds* is sufficiently attractive by its engravings alone; it will make an admirable book. *Cassell's Technical Educator* is strong this time in "Fortifications" and "Weapons of War," as well as in "Civil Engineering." *Cassell's Child's Book of Songs and Praise* has arrived only at Part II. The frontispiece is a capital wintry scene: a country house in a snow-storm. The songs and hymns are illustrated, illuminated, and accompanied by the music. The *Quiver* maintains an even excellence in its class of domestic reading of a semi-religious tone. We note in it this month a charming poem "A Song in the City," by Matthias Barr:

Only a song in the City sung
From a wicker cage in a window hung.

Dalley's Directory is a local almanac, &c., for Bewdley and its neighbourhood, carefully compiled, useful and cheap.

BEET SUGAR.

We extract and condense from a Suffolk paper the following account of a newly established beet-sugar factory at Lavenham in that county, with a compilation of interesting facts relating to the introduction of this branch of industry into this country:—Mr. Duncan, a sugar refiner on a very large scale in London, has for some years been engaged in the practice of importing beet root sugar in the moist state from France, reducing it once more to the state of syrup and then again refining it, the sugar being generally used for admixture with colonial sugar. About three years since he was led to reflect on the great waste of time, labour, and material occasioned by the reduction of moist sugar a second time to a liquid state. He wisely conjectured that if he could introduce the cultivation of the sugar beet into England, express the juice from the roots at a factory established in the centre of the beet-growing district, and forward it to London the desideratum would be attained. Lavenham was selected as the spot on which to commence operations, and the factory was built. Advertisements were inserted in the agricultural and local papers offering 18s. a ton for beet roots (free from earth) to be delivered at the factory gates. At first there was some little difficulty in persuading our East Anglian agricultural friends that it would be to their advantage to grow the sugar or Silesian beet, but when farmers began to understand that they could obtain a better price for this crop than for any other they could grow, and that nearly the whole of the fattening properties of the root for cattle could a better price for this crop than for any other they could grow, and that nearly the whole of the fattening properties of the root for cattle could be re-purchased in the form of pulp at an almost nominal price, their prejudice was somewhat abated. The first two seasons have largely partaken of the nature of experiments, and even this year, though Mr. Duncan has engaged 500 acres of roots, owing to the badness of the season it has not been very successful, but he has proved to his own satisfaction that sugar beet can be grown and beet sugar manufactured as well in England as in sunny France, although not nearly a sufficient quantity of roots for the proper working of the factory has as yet been brought in. In France where the sugar manufacture is chiefly carried on, 300,000 tons of beet sugar being made last year—10½ per cent. of sugar in the roots is considered an extremely good result; at Lavenham the analyses have proved that they have contained 10, 11, and even 12 per cent. of sugar, and the testimony of Mincing-lane is that the best samples of sugar have been brought by Mr. Duncan from Lavenham, and, what is a still better test, the English samples have commanded the highest price in the market. In the factory are no less than five powerful steam engines. The water used is pumped by one of these from a well on the premises 50 feet deep, and passes, after being utilised in the factory, into the small river Brett. More than 150 hands are employed; there being ninety men, a dozen lads, and about fifty women. They work in relays night and day—save from two o'clock on Saturday till Monday morning—during the three or four months the factory is open. The roots are "topped and toiled" by women; after which they fall from a tank of water in small quantities into an open cage in which are iron balls which, as the cage revolves under a stream of water, thoroughly scours, scrubs, and washes them from all impurities, and finally throws the blanched roots through a trap door in the wall on to an inclined plane in the next room. Down this plane the devoted roots roll to a series of revolving knives which cuts them into large pieces which fall on to the "rasp." This rasp is a large iron box, in which a cylinder armed with bands of mole-teeth saws revolves, cutting every fragment literally the pulp. A stream of water from a small pipe is directed on to the top of the rasp, and liquifies into pulp. The sets of teeth in this saw resemble very fine and short pocket combs, each comb being set crosswise into the cylinder, and forming a single line in one of the bands of the saw surrounding the cylinder, so that the whole width of the combs is exerted against the fragments of beet root. Scoops, resembling on a large scale those belonging to coal scuttles, and worked by very long cranks from above, dip at regular intervals into the pulp, emerge loaded to the brim and discharge their cargoes into large bags held in readiness by women. The loaded bags are quickly laid on one of the two hydraulic presses, with iron plates separating each bag from its neighbour. When some twenty or thirty layers are on the press a handle is turned and slowly but surely the press comes down with irresistible force, squeesing the pulp to a compact mass, from which the rich liquor exudes on every side. Six much more powerful presses await the pulp, and each of these receives its shares, hugs it closely, and presses upwards (not downwards as before), depriving it of a large portion of the remainder of its life blood or sap. The pulp is pressed the first time to facilitate the handling of it in the second press. As might be supposed, the most valuable liquor is that expressed at the second process. The comparatively dry bags are taken away by women, who speedily turn them inside out and shake as much of the pulp as possible out of them. This squeezed pulp is eagerly bought by the farmers for feeding purposes, as it still contains a large proportion of sugar and forms a condensed food. Each farmer is permitted to take back in his cart a quantity of pulp, at 12s. per ton, proportionate to the weight of roots that he sent. It is amazing what a quantity of liquid the roots exude while in the hydraulic presses, and how wonderfully their bulk is diminished by the nipping process. The Silesian or sugar beet is composed of 84 per cent. of water, and of but 16 of solid matter, while of the common beet nine-tenths is mere water! The expressed liquor falling down the sides of the presses passes into a large tank beneath the floor. Steam enters at one side and forces the juice by mechanical pressure, as in a squirt, through a pipe to the top of the building. Here are three large copper vessels, each holding some 430 gallons, and into these it is forced. Six pailfuls of cream of lime are poured by degrees on to the juice through which steam is passed in order to boil it. Just before the lime is poured in a sample of the juice is taken by the excise officer, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of duty to be paid. The officer carefully tests it with delicate sacchrometers and thermometers in a room at the further side of the building, set apart for his exclusive use. The object of putting the lime into the liquor is to prevent undue fermentation, and it also has the chemical property of separating from the syrup any impurities that may have been left in it. The cream of lime used is manufactured in a room on the ground floor, and is forced by steam power to this upper chamber in the same manner as the syrup is. The lime having done its work has to be taken out of the syrup. The juice, when thoroughly boiled, passes into the acid cistern. There a worm-like screw passes through the syrup, and injects into it carbonic acid gas. This seizes upon every particle of lime and precipitates it, thus once more clearing the liquor. The carbonic acid gas is also manufactured on the premises. This room and the lime chamber we had just left struck us as being of an unusually high temperature, and we inquired as to the heat; we found that the thermometer in each room stood at something over 100°. From the carbonic acid tanks the liquor passes into six subsiding cisterns to settle, from these being forced into six very long barrelled charcoal filters, which it enters the colour of Irish whiskey, and leaves the taps at the bottom of a clear light red hue. When a filter becomes charged with impurities from the syrup it is replaced by another, the charcoal is taken out, spread over a floor, treated with an acid, and is then put into the very centre of one of the furnaces, in which glowing heat all the impurities and the acid are burnt away, and the charcoal is left, red hot and diminished in quantity, but as good as ever and capable of clarifying the syrup as efficiently as fresh charcoal. The syrup now requires another boiling. It passes into the vacuum pans, from which the air is being constantly exhausted by a powerful steam engine to such an extent that the liquor boils by the heat of the engine's steam at a temperature of 100°. The steam, after accomplishing its work in this pan, passes through a series of vermicular tubes which circulate (as in the first pan) through the syrup in the next pan, where the air is still further exhausted, so that this second pan of liquor is actually boiled by the steam from the first. We peeped through a glass window and could observe the syrup seething and boiling within at a furious pace, although we could bear our hands on the exterior of the boiler. We also noticed that when the steam had done its work it was condensed and again used. After leaving the second exhaust pan the syrup passes into a large tank, from whence it is drawn into hogsheads, at the rate of some 9,000 gallons a week, and despatched to London, where it undergoes the final processes of refining. The refuse from the several processes is itself squeezed by a very powerful press, every drop of liquid that can be expressed is returned by a pipe to the first tank, and the scum, consisting of carbonate of lime and vegetable and earthy matter, is sold to the neighbouring farmers at the nominal price of 3s. per ton. The benefits which the sugar manufacture must confer upon Suffolk in general and Lavenham in particular, cannot be correctly estimated at such an early stage; but one very great advantage which it will prove to the farmer and labourer—and indirectly to the ratepayer—is not so generally known or comprehended as it should be. As the factory is open only during the winter months it does not call down an influx of semi-civilised Hibernians,—who sleep in sacks in the nearest barn, steal all the neighbouring farmers' vegetables and fowls within reach, and have their regular Saturday night "getting tight and fight"—like hop-picking; on the contrary, it affords only the resident rural population a second harvest, by providing indoor employment at good wages, throughout the very season when they most require a helping hand to assist them over the slack work and short pay of the dreary winter.

Important.—14, Carr's Lane, Birmingham. Established 1861, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent saved in value. [24

Iron Wine Bins.—How difficult in many houses to keep a few dozen of Wine as wine ought to be kept—safe, steady, and easy of access! The simplest contrivances of the day are the portable Wine Bins invented by Messrs. Burrow, of Great Malvern. They provide a separate rest for each bottle, soon save their cost, and can be filled or empteed by a child without risk. Made of any size or shape they can be fixed in a minute anywhere in Cellar, Store-room, or Pantry—even the space "under the stairs," or any odd corner in a Batchelor's Chambers may be utilised, and (happy thought) *all can be kept safe under lock and key!* Messrs. Burrow send explanatory Pictorial Illustrations of their Patent Bins, post free, to any one who chooses to write for them, and we believe that Ironmongers and Wine Merchants now very generally keep the various size Bins for sale.—*London Paper*. [148

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THE WAR.

The year closes in with accounts of new battles, defeats, sorties, and incidents more or less horrible of the great Franco-Prussian war, which, having monopolised public attention during the half of one year, promises to reach far up into another. We begin with a few random items:—On the 20th a soldier was shot at Havre, in the presence of 3,000 troops and the populace, for desertion. Five others were expected to be shot the next day for the same offence. The Commandant is determined to enforce the strictest discipline. The only unfortunate facts which could be signalled in the capital are the breaches of military discipline, which are, however, exceptional and very limited, and which have resulted in the dissolution of two battalions of the National Guard, namely, those of Belville and the 147th Battalion of Volunteers. M. Flourens has been sent before a court-martial for actions unconnected with politics, namely, for the usurpation of military rank. A certain number of the Belville Volunteers have also been sent before a similar court, for desertion in presence of the enemy.

The sortie from Paris, which took place on the 21st inst., was an event of some importance. On the 22nd the following account of it was telegraphed from the German head-quarters at Versailles:—"In yesterday's sortie from Paris more than 1,000 unwounded prisoners fell into our hands. The positions which were not attacked were, during the sortie, continually shelled, as usual, but, as hitherto, without considerable damage being done. Three hundred and fifty grenades fell on the 5th Army Corps alone, but the loss resulting therefrom was only one man wounded. To-day two brigades of the enemy advanced against the left wing of the Saxons, but their efforts were foiled by the fire of the Wurtemberg batteries."

General Faidherbe sent the following despatch, dated Corbie, on the 23rd, to the Prefect of the Department of the North:—"From eleven o'clock this morning until six this evening, a battle has been in progress at Pont à Noyelles. We have remained masters of the field of battle, after a long artillery engagement, terminating with an infantry charge along the whole line."

A letter from Paris to the 17th inst. states that a census has been taken of all the inhabitants, in order to secure an equitable distribution of food, and to ascertain those who have not fulfilled their military duties. There is no more gas in Paris; the streets and the boulevards and a few shops are lighted with petroleum; nevertheless, theft and murder were never less frequent. Councils of War are held under the presidency of General Trochu.

Returning to the sortie, the following is a French official report:—The operations were interrupted by night setting in. To the east, the French occupied Neuilly-Sur-Marne, Ville Evrard, and the Maison Blanche, and silenced the enemy's fire on all points. After a severe artillery duel to the north-east, Admiral la Roncière, with the troops of St. Denis, attacked Le Bourget, but could not maintain himself there, and returned with 100 prisoners. General Ducrot made a violent attack against the batteries of Pont Iblon and Blanc Mesnil; to the west General Noel made a demonstration on Montretout and Buzenval. The Gardes Mobiles took part in the action with great ardour. At night General Ducrot occupied the farm of Groslay and Grand Drancy. General Trochu passed the night on the field of battle. The troops of Admiral la Roncière suffered severely, the others very little.

The next two items are dated Christmas Eve, from the German side:—

A despatch from Amiens announces that the army of General Faidherbe, 60,000 strong, was defeated yesterday (Friday) by General Manteuffel. On our part only two divisions were engaged. The pursuit was interrupted by night setting in.

Yesterday a victorious battle was fought by the 1st Army on the Hallu, a mile and a half (German) north-east of Amiens, against the enemy's Army of the North, 60,000 strong. After several villages had been stormed by our troops, the enemy was driven back, with heavy losses, across the valley of the Hallu. One thousand unwounded prisoners have been taken.

The following are items from Bordeaux, dated the 24th:—On Friday evening a serious engagement took place between the troops under the command of General Chanzy and the Prussians under the command of the Duke of Mecklenburg. The French occupied the heights, and the Prussians attacked in great force, but were met with a murderous fire from the mitrailleuses, which inflicted heavy losses, estimated at 4,000 men. The French evacuated Vendôme, and afterwards continued their movement of retreat, which is declared to be Chanzy's plan of campaign. The Army of the North has cut the communications between La Fére and Laon. M. Valdée, of Marseilles, has invented a navigable balloon, which can carry heavy weights and can be constructed in twenty days. His system has been approved by a committee of scientific men and engineers.

News has been received from Paris by a balloon which left the capital on the evening of the 22nd inst. No fighting had occurred on that day, with the exception of a few shots fired in the direction of the Heights of Avron; but fresh operations appeared imminent. Paris was completely calm, and perfectly confident in the future. The journals estimated the French loss during the fighting of the previous day at about 800 killed and wounded.

Fresh German troops to the number of 75,000 men have been moved on towards Paris, and the bombardment is daily expected.

A correspondent at Brussels telegraphed on Sunday:—"I hear on undoubted authority that the proposal is now entertained at Versailles of making the cession of Savoy and Nice by France to the Pope one of the conditions of peace whenever negotiations are opened."

Maravilla Cocoa for Breakfast.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers' Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers. Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [76

Faceache, Toothache, Tic Doloreux.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depot, 39, Ann Street. Sold by all Chemists; and J. Yardley, of Bloxwich. [107

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The coming Conference in London to consider the demands of Russia with respect to the Treaty of 1856 and the neutrality of the Black Sea, is exciting a great deal of interest. It is rumoured that Signor Minghetti will be appointed the Italian representative. With regard to France, which is to be represented, M. Thiers was at first spoken of as likely to be accredited at the meeting, but on Sunday it was telegraphed from Bordeaux that a more likely representative was M. Jules Favre himself. The Vienna *New Free Press* publishes a despatch from Constantinople asserting that England will propose to the Conference the suppression of the neutralisation of the Black Sea and the passage of the Dardanelles, and in return for this proposition will ask authority for the construction of two naval stations at Sinope and Trebizonde. The Porte regards this proposition with favour, while General Ignatieff strongly opposes it, and, to defeat the plan of England, will offer to the Porte a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive, with a guarantee for the integrity of the Ottoman territory. It is reported that Russia has ordered a thousand American mitrailleuses.

THOU SHALT NOT MARRY.

There is a series of Divine prohibitions known as the Decalogue in which the cardinal vices of humanity are duly interdicted, and which forms the basis of the custom, if not of the law, of nearly all civilised peoples. The inspired lawgiver, however, omitted one important subject, and so in this advanced year of grace, 1870, the Directors of the Union Bank of London have supplied the missing veto, and it runs thus: "Thou shalt not marry on less than £150 a year." The Directorial fiat has gone forth to all Union Bank clerks, forbidding them to enter into the estate of matrimony—notwithstanding it be a holy one—unless they have a salary of at least £150 per annum, and any violator of this edict is to be forthwith banished from the financial heaven in Princes-street. At first sight there is something comic in a wealthy commercial corporation playing the part of Deputy Providence, and regulating the private social life of the clerks in its employ. A Board-minute prescribing the regular use of Holloway's pills, or the wearing of flannel and goloshes, or inhibiting attendance at St. Alban's or the Tabernacle, might be expected to follow, and could hardly be more ridiculously out of character. Seriously, however, when we come to examine the subject, we cannot but regret that a body of shrewd and sensible men should have been betrayed into an unwarrantable interference with those private rights and liberties which belong to every Englishman of mature years. Assuming the motive of this restriction to be benevolently conceived in the interest of those affected by it, it is equally an infringement of the delicate right of private judgment—a right which social custom and the supreme law of the country religiously respect. Society has outgrown feudalism at home, and Englishmen especially have been at some pains to extinguish slavery abroad; yet this exercise of authority, in the matter of marriage, by employer over employed was one of the features of villeinage in mediæval, and of slavery in modern times. Employers of any and every kind of labour, mental or manual, have a palpable right to its punctual and precise performance, and may enforce, direct, and control it by all lawful means; but, that faithful service performed, the authority of the employer ceases, and in all that relates to his iudividual existence and conduct, apart from his daily duty, the *employé* is, or should be, perfectly free and uncontrolled. Some mistresses are particularly fond of dictating the materials of their maid's dresses, the shape of their mantles, and the trimming of their bonnets, and in directing how, when, and where their wages should be spent. Possibly their interference has often a good result in the matter of appearance as well as economy; but it is none the less a violation of the priciple of individual liberty. The threat of dismissal may also prevent an improvident marriage by a junior clerk, but the threat is an un-called for piece of tyranny. The end in both cases must be plausible, but it does not justify the means taken to attain it.

The Draconian Directorate of the Union Bank profess to have been much impressed with the difficulties and distress resulting from early and improvident marriages among junior clerks. Allowing this to be true, we question if there is not some of the universal element of selfishness at the bottom of their anxiety. How have they been made aware of the difficulties that surround inconsiderate matrimony except by a request for an increase of salary and promotion; and is not the fact of a man being single, and having "only himself to provide for," been frequently made an excuse by employers denying him both? It is more economical, they think to have the executive of a large establishment conducted by a number of young exquisites at £100 a year, who dine little, dress much, drink more, and smoke most, who deem the day behind the desk a tolerable diversion to the evening before the music-hall counter, than to employ, at £150 a year, men whom nature and necessity have endued with a regard for somebohy and something outside themselves.

Of course early marriages, or rather, early family-having, is very improvident, but that improvidence is matched by the heartlessness of mercantile men who, taking advantage of the competition of intellectual labour, callously continue to give inadequate remuneration for it. Common sense revolts against boys and girls marrying, and we know of no financial or commercial house that pays its youngest servants sufficient to tempt them to commit the folly; but if their "junior" clerks are men doing the work of men, with little more than the pay of boys, the distress and difficulty resulting from improvident marriages is as much the doing of employers as of employed. The Directors of the Union Bank fail to see, perhaps, that in drawing a hard and fast line at £150 a year as a marriageable income, they are practically forbidding matrimony altogether. A good many years are occupied in advancing from, say, £70 or £80 to the stipulated sum—years in which much of the method and fashion of a man's future life are formed—years in which he is peculiarly apt to acquire loose manners and looser morals—years in which the working and waiting may be cut short by death, plans and engagements be frustrated by the mutability of circumstances and the hopes of one or two lives be wrecked and cast adrift on the wide ocean of the future. It is real tyranny to compel a city clerk to remain unmarried till he is forty or fifty years old. And the tyranny is foolish. Who are the principal frequenters of the music-halls, the casinos, and other places of questionable resort in the metropolis? and who stimulate the vice and profligacy that flaunts itself openly in the public thoroughfares? Are they the young married men with small incomes and great incumbrances? or are they the unmarried clerks and shopmen with incomes between £80 and £150 a year? Which of these two classes, let us also ask, gives the best guarantees for diligence and commercial rectitude in the interests of their employers,—the young unmarried man, whose head is full of the last ballet, the new comic song, or the forthcoming burlesque, or the man weaned from these frivolities to the purer joys of domestic life? The edict of the Union Bank is not only an interference with liberty; it is also based on a wrong assumption as to that which best promotes the social welfare. We have heard of similar rules in other financial establishments. We hope, however, they may think better of their determination. It is not much good for sentimentalists to prate that "marriages are made in heaven," when we find them prohibited in a back parlour; and it is bewildering to hear on a Sunday the Scripture admonition that "marriage is honourable in all men," and on Monday to find the commercial code plainly setting forth the prohibition, "Thou shalt not marry."—*Examiner.*

Erratum.—In Messrs. Creese and Co.'s advertisement in our last for "envelopers" read "embossers."

The Mont Cenis Tunnel.—A telegram on Christmas-day announced as follows:—The last diaphragm has just been bored, exactly in the middle of the Mont Cenis Tunnel, amid repeatde cries from one side to the other of "Long live Italy!"

The Boar's Head at Oxford.—The ancient ceremony of serving up a boar's head in the hall of Queen's College, Oxford, at Christmas, was observed with the usual pomp on Monday, when the public were admitted in large numbers to witness the interesting event. The boar's head was borne on the shoulders of two of the College servants, preceded by the Provost and Fellows of the Society, and followed by a procession of choristers and singing men, who sang the following ballad most effectively, the Rev. T. Rennison, Precentor of Queen's, taking the solo part:—

> "The boar's head in hand bring I,
> Bedecked with bays and rosemary,
> And I pray you my masters be merry.
> Quot estis in convivio,
> Caput estis in convivio
> Reddens laudes Domino.
>
> The boar's head, as I understand,
> Is the rarest dish in all the land;
> Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland,
> Let us servire cantico
> Caput apri defero
> Reddens laudes Domino.
>
> Our stewards hath provided this
> In honour of the King of Bliss,
> Which on this day to be served is
> In Reginensi Atrio,
> Caput apri defero,
> Reddens laudes Domino."

After the ceremony the decorations of bays, rosemary, holly, and artificial flowers, &c., were distributed among the visitors, and the monster head was placed upon the high table, and the members of the society proceeded to dine. The origin of serving up the boar's head at Queen's College is somewhat obscure, but we glean from Pointer's *Oxoniensis Academia* that "it is in memory of a noble exploit, as tradition goes, by a scholar (a tabarder) of this College in killing a wild boar in Shotover-wood." Having wandered into the wood, which is not far from Oxford, with a copy of *Aristotle* in his hand, and being attacked by a wild boar, who came at him with extended jaws, intending to make but a mouthful of him, he was enabled to conquer him by thrusting the *Aristotle* down the boar's throat, crying "*Græcum Est!*" The animal, of course, fell prostrate at his feet, was carried in triumph to the College, and no doubt served up with an "old song," as Mr. Pointer says, in memory of this "noble exploit."

The **London Star Tea Company**, of Worcester Street, Birmingham, have just introduced a new Lock Tea Cannister, in various sizes, which will be found very convenient to all Housekeepers.

The Musical Art Union.—A novel scheme has been started under this name for giving musicians and amateurs some of the advantages offered to lovers of other forms of art by the Art Union of London. The first distribution took place in September, which comprised a large number of prizes, consisting of musical instruments, volumes of music, &c., of considerable value. The next distribution will take place in January, when any one taking a shilling ticket will have a chance of a prize.—*Volunteer Service Gazette*, November 5th, 1870.

Patent Teeth on Soft Gums.—Mr. William J. Watson, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall Street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties, that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of the art of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges*. Single Teeth from 2s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

The Present Season.—Crichley, Wilde, and Co. are now showing a large section of their Patent Air Warmers; also, the Patent Terra-Cotta Gas Stove, which is entirely free from smoke or smell. New pattern Hot-Air Stoves for Halls, panelled with Encaustic Tiles. Churches, Mansions, Shops, &c., heated on the most approved principles. Show Rooms, 5½, 6, and 6½, Cannon Street. Works, Bordesley. [119

Mutual Life Assurance.—The advantages of the Scottish Provident Institution, as compared with other offices, are a greatly larger original assurance for the same premium, and eventually to good lives, as large additions as where the ordinary high rate of premium is charged.—For particulars, apply to Mr. A. Forrest, 10, Cherry Street, Birmingham. [105

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Shortness of Breadth, Coughs, and Colds.—Thousands of testimonials can be produced to prove the power possessed by these corrective remedies in cases of asthma, incipent consumption, and all disorders of the chest and lungs. The Ointment well rubbed upon the chest and back penetrating the skin, is absorbed and carried directly to the lungs, where, in immediate contact with the whole mass of circulating blood, it neutralises or expels those impurities which are the foundation of consumption, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, and similar complaints. On the appearance of the first consumptive symptoms the back and chest of the patient should be fomented with warm brine, dried with a coarse cloth, and Holloway's Ointment then well rubbed in. Its absorption will subdue advancing symptoms, and baffle this formidable foe. [42

MIDLAND PANTOMIMES.

Birmingham.—"Dick Whittington and his Cat" was produced on Boxing night to a crowded house. We cannot afford space to give the pantomime so lengthy a notice as it deserves, or to treat of its literary merit, which is considerable. The principal attraction, of course, is the transformation scene. It is a very difficult task to describe a transformation scene, and we frankly confess our inability to give our readers any idea of this charming production. It is most beautiful. When it began, the whole audience, that before had been rather noisy, became quite still, and with the exception of exclamations of "oh!" now and then from enthusiastic children, no one seemed to speak above a whisper until it was drawn to a close. The music, arranged by Mr. Humphreys, is excellent. Miss Marie Longmore impersonated *Dick Whittington* very cleverly. Miss Longmore sings well, plays well, and dances well, and she will no doubt become a great favourite before the pantomime is withdrawn. Mr. Sinclair can always be relied upon. He is generally equal to the situation, and as *Idle Jack* he is very amusing. *The Cat* and *Rataplan* are pieces of clever mimicing by Mr. J. Alexander and Master A. Alexander respectively. We did not detect any startling new feature in the Harlequinade, and think it does not surpass previous years. Policemen shamefully treated, and babies used most unmercifully, are the principal features. However, this seems to amuse as much as ever, so that there is scarcely room for complaint.—"Jack and the Beanstalk" was performed at the Prince of Wales' for the first time on Christmas Eve. There was a poor house, and the whole affair went off tamely. We think the pantomime is far inferior to that of last year, especially as regards the transformation scene. The old feature of having a large corps of well-trained children has been retained with success; but there is no Miss Nelly Smith at their head this year, and consequently much of the attraction is lost. Some of the scenery is admirable, and if for nothing else, the theatre is worthy of a visit.

Sheffield.—Tuesday night was the real opening night of the pantomime, entitled "The Babes in the Wood," at the Theatre Royal, and a most successful affair it was, both in performance and patronage. The theatre was crowded in every part, in fact such great numbers have not been known to meet in one night in that building for several years. Miss Effie Macdonald and Mr. Benson are prodigious prodigies of "babes"—most precocious children—and as may be expected from what is already known of this amusing pair they give rise to great mirth. Miss Edwards, as Lord Ladidadi, the cruel uncle of the "babes," performs her part with great credit; as also does Miss Brindsley. There are others of whom we might speak very favourably would space permit, but that will no doubt be done in a future notice. The scenery is thought very good, and among the various scenes we may especially mention scene 3, entitled "The Valley of Silver Firs." To crown all, the grandeur of the transformation scene is of an extremely high order. In our opinion, it is the most tasty and at the same time brilliant scene of the kind that has ever been placed upon the boards of the Theatre Royal. The harlequinade is somewhat improved by a few comical innovations by Mr. Ted Saunders. The whole of the entertainment is already performed with smoothness and accuracy, and reflects great credit upon the leading players.

Bristol.—The pantomime of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" was produced on Boxing-night with every promise of a brilliant run. The pantomime sparkles with quips and quirks, with those grotesque and happy turns of expression which constitute half the literary charm of a pantomime, and, as a story, is especially distinguished by those rapid and startling transformations in scenery and character which give scope to the ingenuity of the artist and the costumier. In presenting this pantomime on the Bristol boards, Mr. Chute has done all that enterprise and taste can suggest to make "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" as brilliant and diversified a spectacle as any one could wish. All the parts are excellentlly allotted, and the performers without exception thoroughly well up in their parts. The piece is richly dressed, and the scenes are as picturesque, as diversified, and as taking as the imagination itself can suggest. The transformation scene is particularly good. It represents the seasons with the most exquisite finish and colour. The Harlequinade is exceedingly diverting. "The Bower of the Arabian Night" is a brilliant conception; and it is reproduced in a style which on Saturday brought down the house. If Ali Baba takes as it ought to do, it will be one of the most successful of the pantomimes that have been produced in Bristol.

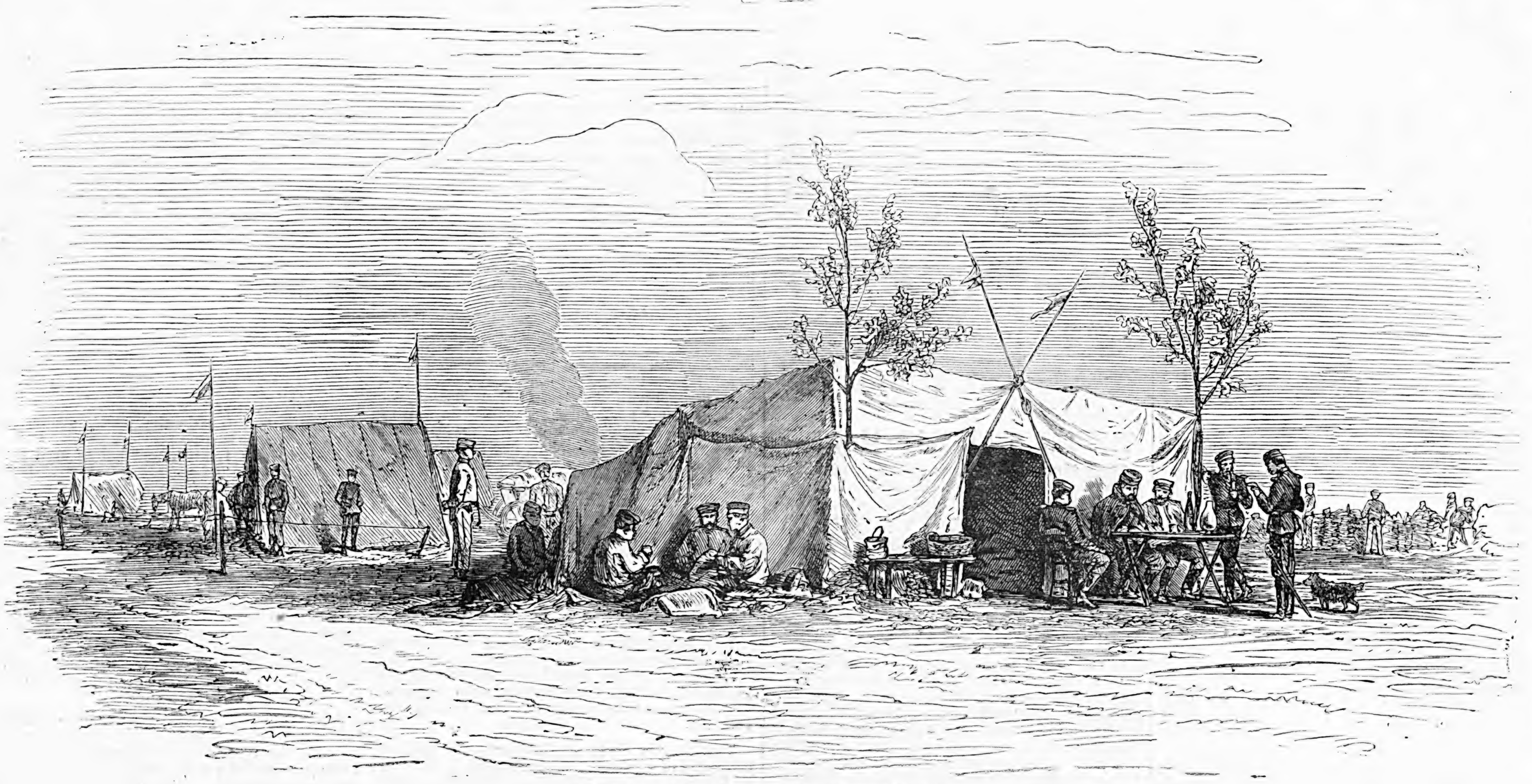
Floriline!!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the Fragrant Floriline on a wet tooth brush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the Teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the Teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed Teeth, a disordered stomach, or tobacco smoke. The Fragrant Floriline is purely vegetable, and equally adapted to old and young. It is the greatest Toilet discovery of the age. Sold in elegant cases, complete, at 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and Perfumers.—H. C. Gallup, Proprietor, 493, Oxford Street, London. [156

Advice to Mothers.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the owels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes.—Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [694

For Table Delicacies, Desserts, &c., "Sea Moss Farine" is the most healthful, economical, convenient, and delicious food in the world. A Shilling Packet will produce *Sixteen Quarts* of Blanc Mange, Custard Pudding, Charlotte Russe, Floating Island, &c. Sea Moss Farine is in a far more concentrated form than Corn Flours, Maizena, and other farinaceous or gelatinous articles. Its cheapness, wholesomeness, and simplicity of preparation will commend it to all Hotels, Families, and Restaurants. Sold by all Chemists and Grocers. Sea Moss Farine Co., 266, High Holborn, London. [21

The Hair.—The Plain Truth.—Mrs. Allen's World's Hair Restorer will positively restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises, and the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article tnat can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s.; in large bottles only.—Depot, 266, High Holborn, London. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [189

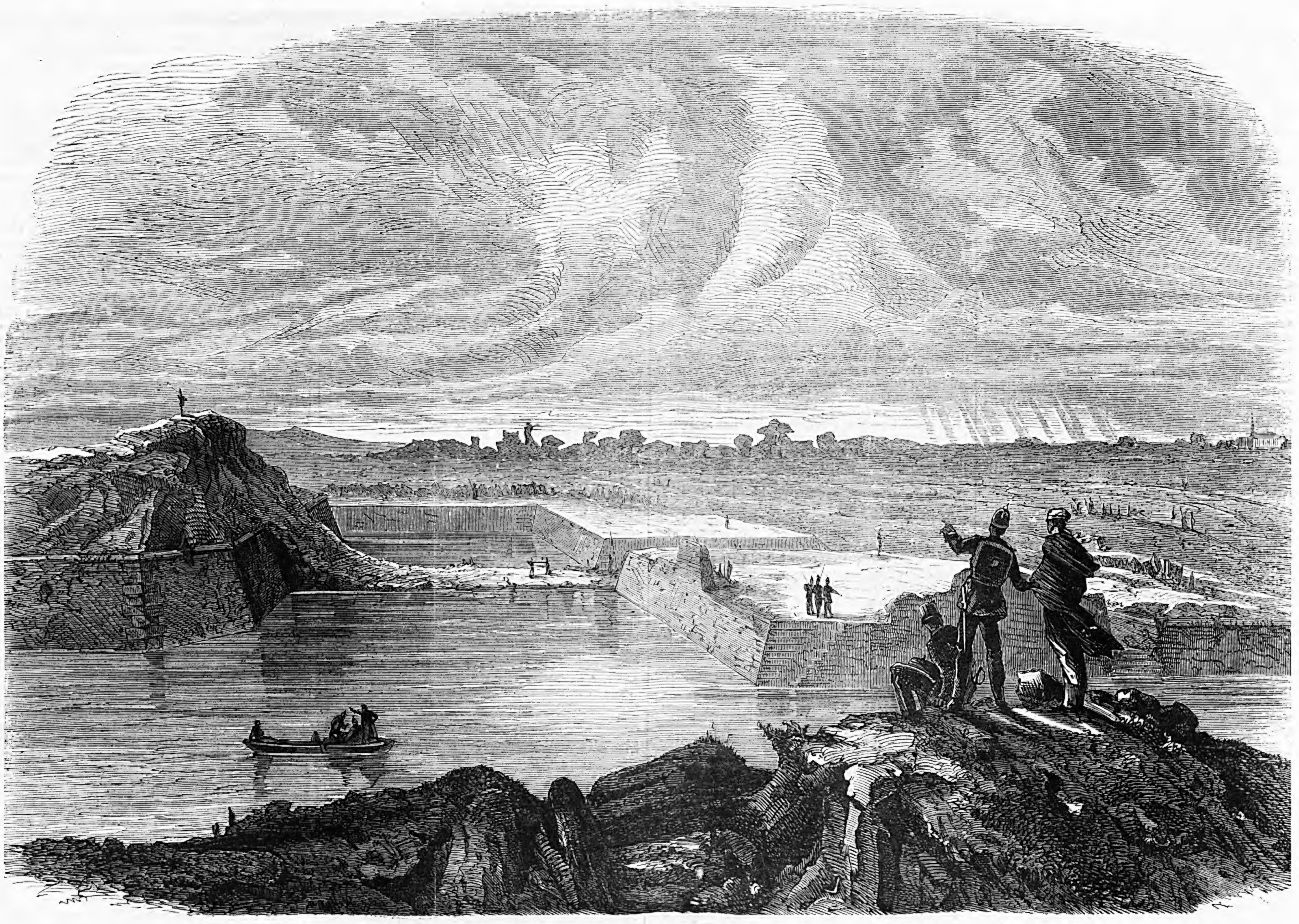
Pure Water.—Alfred Bird, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new Carbon Filter, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [930



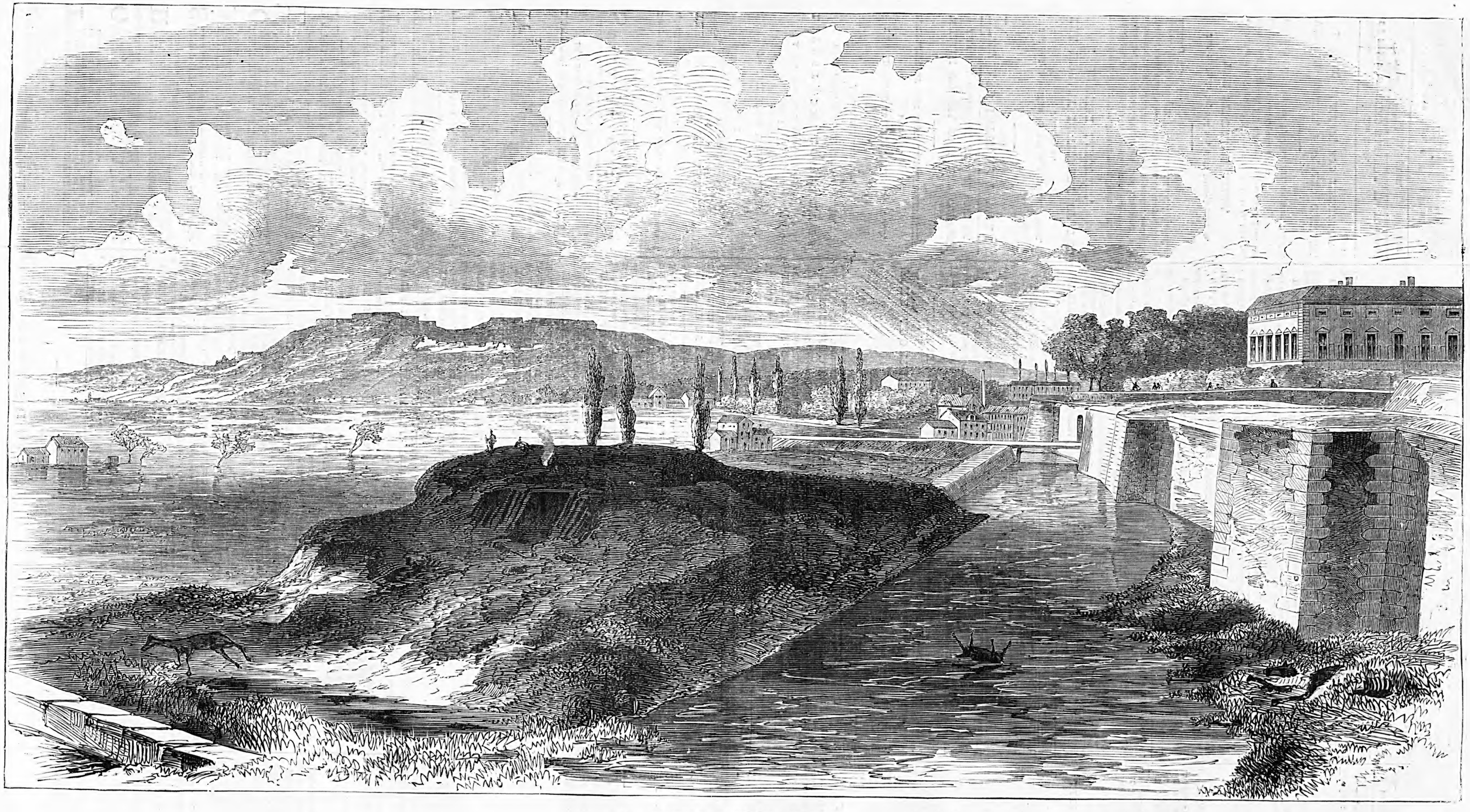
A PRUSSIAN BIVOUACK AT PONTAY.

A **Shakespearian Novelty.—Jem Mace on the American Stage.**—A Shakespearian revival of a very novel character has been set on foot at Niblo's Theatre, New York. Jem Mace, the celebrated English pugilist, has made his appearance on the boards as an interpreter of the great dramatist, and has filled the house every evening to overflowing. The part in which he appears is not an important one, and he speaks but two lines of the text of the whole play. Not further to tamper with the curiosity of your readers, let me say that the play is "As You Like It," and that Jem Mace comes forward as the Wrestler with Orlando. Long before the curtain rises the galleries are filled with the representatives of the Bowery, hard-faced young men with their "gals," who sit in mute bewilderment, without the vaguest notion of what it all means, bored to death with the philosophical reflections of the melancholy Jacques, until the wrestling scene, when, as soon as the popular favourite walks upon the stage, they make the theatre ring with their acclamations. It is to be regretted that the cruel exigencies of the play demand that the Wrestler should be thrown, and the audience is decidedly "down" on Shakespeare in consequence, regarding Jem Mace's defeat as a "put-up job," for which they have no toleration. Accordingly they call out always for another round and fair play, but as yet the manager has not consented to change the issue of the struggle. He may be compelled to consent to the introduction of a second combatant for Jem Mace to vanquish, and the pressure is already so great that the prize-fighter appears before the curtain at the end of the act. It is but fair to say that he is very ably supported by Mr. Walter Montgomery as Orlando, and Mrs. Scott-Siddons, as Rosalind, "the chaste, the fair, the inexpressive she."

The Duke of Edinburgh has been paying a third visit to Melbourne. There was no public reception, the visit being strictly private. The Prince went to Sandridge without the Galatea, which was at Sydney refitting, and was attended only by Lieutenant Haig, his equerry. His Royal Highness was the guest of the Governor. The Prince attended the theatres once or twice, was present at a ball at the Town Hall to celebrate the opening of the Alfred Hospital, the foundation-stone of which he laid during his first visit to the colony, and witnessed the first day's racing of the Spring Meeting of the V.R.C.



LUNETTE NO. 53, BEFORE STRASBURG.



THE WESTERN VICINITY OF METZ.

SHAM ANTIQUITIES.—Some of our readers may remember a controversy which commenced to rage about four years ago, and which went on ever so long after, regarding certain Roman inscriptions discovered at Nennig, a small place on the Upper Moselle, about seven hours' distance from Trèves. The first excavations on this since famous spot are said to have been undertaken, without result, in 1819. In 1840 the property in question—a Roman villa, to wit—passed into the hands of a Trèves antiquarian society, but it was not till 1852 that the first real discovery, consisting in a mosaic floor of great value, was made. Four years later the State acquired the ground, and by some extraordinary jobbery or neglectfulness the local government of Trèves intrusted the further excavations to a Mr. Schäffer, about whom the least said the better. This gentleman, himself no "scholar," so well acquitted himself of his task that he first of all found four painted mural inscriptions, and next another sculptured, all vouching for each other, and clearing up with marvellous lucidity certain points which had long been the stumbling-block of antiquaries, and which had formed the principal battle-ground among certain Trèves antiquaries. But no sooner were the inscriptions made known than they were condemned by the highest palæographical authorities of Germany—Brombach, Mommsen, Hübner among the number—as clumsy forgeries. Whereupon the "local patriots" of Trèves arose to defend their genuineness against all comers, and a whole pamphlet literature on the subject was the result. Both parties standing strongly by their opinion, the Government at last took the matter in hand, intrusting Professor Aus'm Werth with a thorough and exhaustive investigation of the circumstances connected with the discovery itself. His report has just been published, and it contains the most astounding revelation of a forgery, planned by some unfortunately too fanatical antiquary in support of his theories, and executed by Schäffer, who, it would seem, is now to bear the whole brunt of the offence by himself. It appears that the lapidary inscription was not made until the genuineness of the mural inscriptions had become the subject of contest; and, worst and clumsiest of all, Schäffer actually predicted the day of the discovery of the former, and actually invited a number of gentlemen to witness it. All these things, as well as the chymical agencies applied by Schäffer to the wall paintings in order to give them the necessary dirt-covering of 2,000 years' standing, had already become known in the course of time. A new and more startling fact, however, remained for Professor Aus'm Werth to discover—viz., a letter written by Schäffer to one of his antiquarian patrons on the day before the discovery of the lapidary monument, already containing the whole inscription in question! This fatal anachronism finishes the matter as far as science is concerned. It will be another question whether the authorities will take any further steps regarding the authors of the fraud committed "under Government."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

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NOTICES.

Our respectful apologies are due to several members of the news trade and to many of our customers on account of the disappointment they have suffered in the non-delivery of the Christmas Number. The demand was far beyond our ability to produce. Those who have received copies of the coloured picture alone will get their supplements with this Number. It is impossible at present to do more than this. If the orders that are still coming in justify us we shall reproduce "I See Him," and issue it at a very moderate price to all purchasers of the paper during the month of February. Meanwhile we have made arrangements to increase our mechanical appliances in such a way as to prevent a repetition of the difficulty of the past week.

The present Number of the *Illustrated Midland News* will complete the Third Volume. The Index, printed on a separate sheet, will be ready on January 7.

We commence the Fourth Volume next week in new type, printed on toned paper, with a beautiful front-page engraving, entitled, "New Year's Gifts."

New Subscribers will find this a most fitting opportunity for taking in the paper regularly. Old Subscribers will, we trust, see in the present paper and in the increased importance of our New Year's Number an earnest of our intention to be more and more worthy of their support.

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The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, DEC. 31, 1870.

A few words of personal explanation. We are the victims of a great success. The demand for our Christmas Number has been so far beyond our means of supply that we have been unable to issue the full complement of the orders in hand. Finding our means of printing inadequate we sought aid in Birmingham from other houses, but without avail. Our paper is a novelty still in the provinces, and could not be printed except on our own machines, which were insufficient for the purpose. Other mechanical difficulties have impeded our operations, and the Christmas holidays emptied local shops of workmen who might have helped us. Warned by this disaster—the disaster of too much success—we have made arrangements for the future that cannot fail to prevent a similar difficulty. At the beginning of the New Year we shall supplement our arrangements in Birmingham with special London appliances for the more rapid production of the paper. We shall commence the New Year with important changes announced in our last and again referred to this week. Meanwhile we most respectfully solicit the indulgence of the news trade and the public, to whom we can safely promise that there will be no repetition of the disappointments of the past week.

There is no doubt about what we have frequently suggested with regard to the Germans. They dislike us and feel our influence and power to be in their way. The hostility of the German soldiers towards England is notorious among lookers on at the war in France. This hostility breaks out now and then into open insult and defiance. Last week the spite of some officials brought about the arrest of several British officers; but "satisfactory explantions" were given by Bismarck to our Foreign office. This week the Germans have deliberately taken sundry coaling vessels of ours navigating the Seine and sunk them to defend the river. They have not only done this but treated the English sailors with a high-handed brutality that ought to require more than "explanations" at the hands of the "Emperor of Germany."

Mr. Gladstone is being severely handled by some of his extreme supporters. His hasty congratulations upon King William's change of title, are put forth in contrast (with some show of justice it must be admitted) to his refusal to recognise the French Republic. Apart from this wayside incident the Liberal papers are dealing out scorching satire upon the weak and vascillating policy of Mr. Gladstone and his government. The *Spectator*, for example, is very bitter in its criticism of the ministry which has, everybody admits, fallen short of the position created by recent events. The utter disregard of the storm which we had seen gathering so long is little short of treason. Regiments disbanded; dockyards emptied of their best hands; the volunteers pooh-poohed when everything portended dangers ahead of the most terrible kind, will fill a strange page in history, where for the present all men will be content to leave it if every effort is made to retrieve the mistakes of the past. It is the duty of a people who have been so deceived by their rulers to demand vigorous action. Surely if the Conservatives had been in office great public meetings would have been called to ask very ugly questions. We should all sink mere party politics at a time like this. We can say so the more fearlessly as a non-political paper. All we wish for is a ministry that shall do justice to the dignity, honour, and power of the nation. The people should be content with nothing short of an immediate embodiment o the militia, general recruiting for soldiers, the complete arming of the volunteers, the increase of our naval force, and the immediate laying down of gunboats in every dockyard in England. In the meantime, conscious of doing what is righteous and just, we should hold our own in the presence of European complications, with a manly and unswerving boldness in the maintenance of our dignity. Heaven grant that we may not be dragged into war; but, if we are to fight, let us gird up our loins and accept our destiny. Everything points to a stormy future which it were criminal to disregard.

The Germans have shown a power of organisation and a marked valour in the field which has excited the admiration of all nations. It is a pity the commanders do not put down with a strong hand the growing tendency of their troops to pillage and murder. We are glad to see that General Werder repudiates the execution of franc-tireurs when taken prisoners. The Germans can afford to be magnanimous in the midst of victories so complete and overwhelming.

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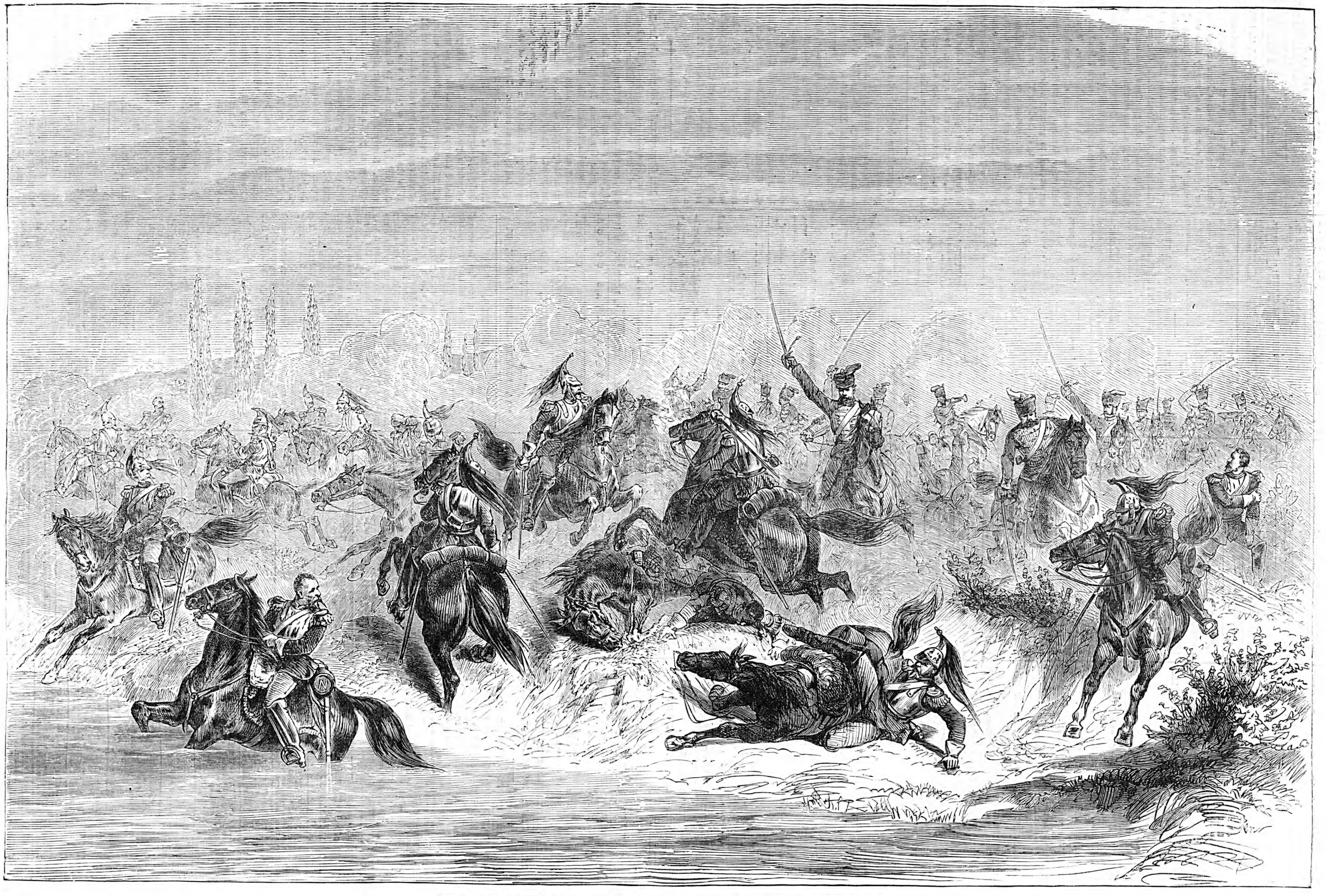

ATTACK OF PRUSSIAN HUSSARS ON FRENCH CUIRASSIERS AT BEUAMONT.

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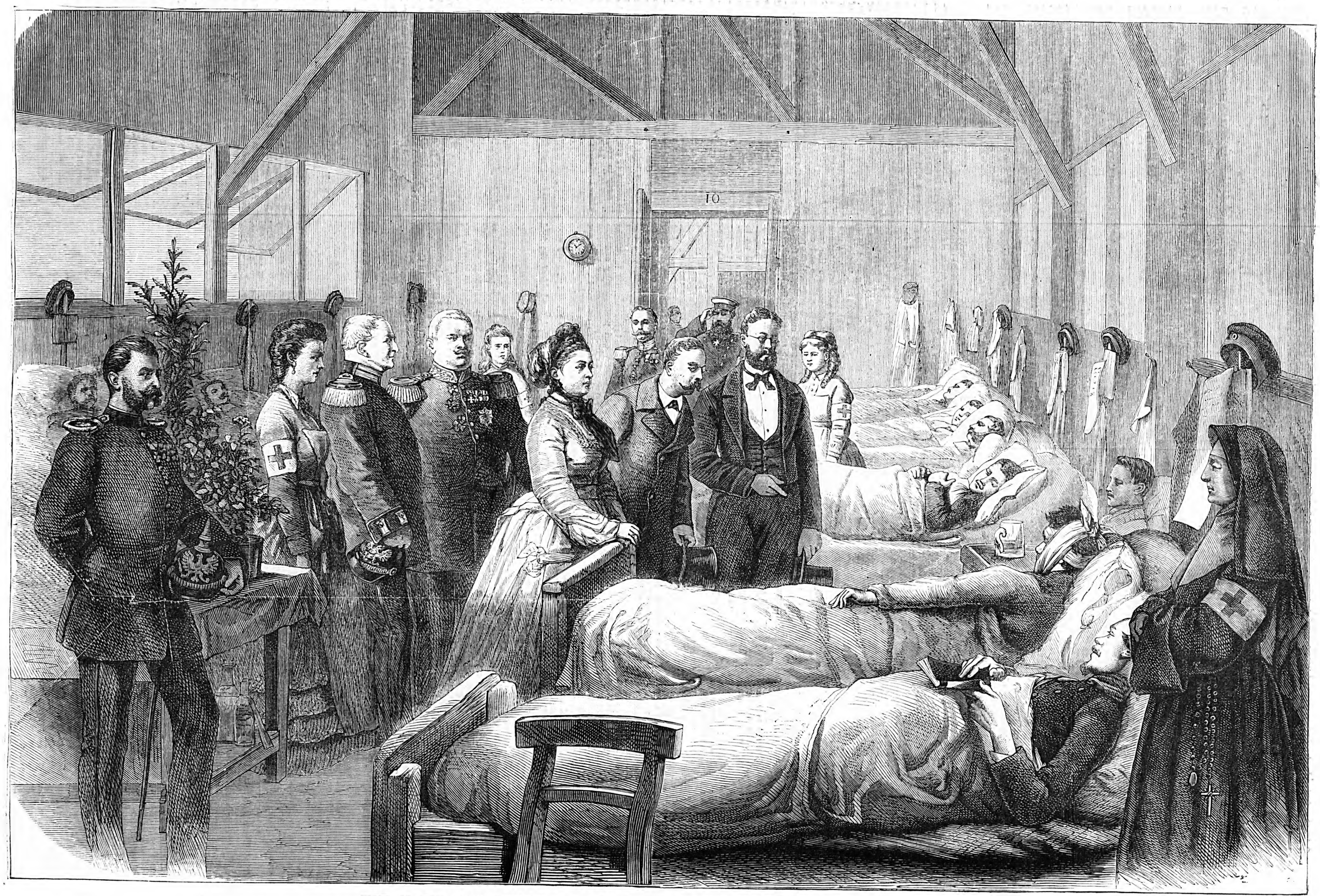

VISIT OF THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA TO THE HOSPITAL FOR WOUNDED AT FRANKFORT.

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THE A.B.C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

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ARABIAN.

Arabian ornament proper may be briefly dismissed. The Arabs constructed their buildings chiefly of old materials which themselves suggested the style adopted. Their ideas of ornament too were, to a large extent, derived from ancient Persia, from which they are supposed to have borrowed many of their arts. The Arabs had neither art nor artists of their own. They came from their deserts with no more taste or knowledge of such matters than a mere love of finery could give them. The architectural magnificence of Cairo and Damascus, which fell into their possession about 634 A.D., brought about a new era in Arabian design and ornamentation. With their new power arose a new ambition, and the Byzantine artists were pressed into the service of Arabian caliphs and generals, who were ordered to raise rich mosques and palaces.

Stringent limits upon the application of ornament were placed by the Mahommedan law—in endless designs in mosaic, marquetery, or in stucco, there was to be no image of a living thing, vegetable, or animal, so that mere curves and angles or interlacings were now to bear the chief burden of a design, with nothing to distinguish them but a lavish variety of colours. The curves, however, fell naturally into the standard forms, and floral shapes disguised, while the lines and angles were soon developed into a characteristic species of tracery or interlaced strap work, very agreeably diversified by the ornamental introduction of inscriptions.

TABLE TALK.

Everybody acknowledges the propriety of intensely and uncomfortably cold weather at Christmas. We complain of it, but we apologise on the moment for the complaint. Before the sharp frost comes we look forward to it as to something that is to be a relief from weather of a much less desirable sort, and when it comes, and close, too, upon the twenty-fifth of December, we congratulate ourselves. And yet how very soon we grumble. The truth is that frosty weather is like most other things over which we have no control—it very rarely comes according to pattern. There is a kind that is always welcome. It is when the atmosphere is clear and dry, and the degree of frost is not very severe. By day or by night that is undoubtedly the most welcome form of winter—by night especially when the moon shines. But this is weather that happens to us in this island only at considerable intervals, and in short allowances. We had a few days of it in anticipation of Christmas, just to show how transient it is, and how liable to a relapse into some other and less agreeable form of cold weather. For picturesqueness—the description of picturesqueness that makes Christmas pictures—this has been a very favourable festal season. The sketches of the time for "Christmas numbers," were all in the press before the temperature fell, but the artists, no doubt, in the days of this week and last have filled their note books with many a capital scene for next year. In the centre of the Midland district, in the immense town of Birmingham, Thursday is market-day, and that of the twenty-second was the one known as the Christmas Market. This was a model day for the season and the feast. The frost was sharp, but not sufficiently so to hurt. There was enough snow to make white planes and lines and curves, but it did not fall in such quantities as to destroy the colouring of the scene. When the Bull Ring was filled with Christmas merchandise—the overflow of the gigantic building—and everything, animal and vegetable, was salted over with a light qualification of snow, then might be caught pictures enough to fill a Christmas album. There is so much pleasure in the anticipation of enjoyment that among the pleasantest recollections of most people in connection with Christmas are items of experience preceding the day, and Christmas of 1870 will deserve a famous niche by reason of the three or four days of fresh and moderately-tempered frost which preceded the great anniversary. After that, however, it was a case of hardship. The weather was bitter. To go out to a family dinner or supper and to return from one this week have formed a costly penalty for the pleasures of social recreation.

That Thursday's market in the capital of the Midlands reminds us to note and to place on record a unique fact in connection with the day. The oldest Midlander cannot count off on his fingers very many Thursdays before Christmas when there was just enough frost and snow to give a zest to the associations of the day and no more; but if we could call up the Midlanders of as many hundred years as have elapsed since a market was held in Birmingham on that day of the week, we should not find one who could say that previous to 1870 the buyers and sellers at market on the Thursday before Christmas day stopped from their trafficking for a few minutes to watch the phenomena of an eclipse of the sun. No darkened glass was needed, to assist in the spectacle on this occasion, and no man of science was required to point out that something unusual was happening. Without having anticipated it or thought of it, the wayfarer could hardly help seeing the remarkable spectacle, and so obvious through the shading of light clouds was the nature of the movement that the most unlearned in astronomy might unaided have jumped to the conclusion that the moon had got between the sun and the earth, and was obstructing the rays of the "greater light." That an eclipse of the sun, nearly total in this country and total in a more southern latitude, occurred on the 22nd inst. is a fact that hardly called for mention in this column, seeing how notorious is the event; but places and circumstances give a special colour to an occurrence which is in itself neither of place nor of circumstance; and it is not altogether unworthy of observation across this table that the eclipse of December 1870 is peculiarly mixed up with the recollections of the thousands of Midland market people and marketers of the Thursday before Christmas, in the year of whose days from to-day we cease to take note.

The severity of the season since Christmas Eve has naturally revived old reminiscences of hard frosts, especially in connection with the festival. Over the Christmas table many a long memory has been ransacked for statistics and instances. The favourite example is that which is fresh in the minds of the largest number. It has been noted as something of a coincidence that Christmas Day just ten years ago was extraordinarily cold, though we do not think anything can be made of the fact that in each of these years the date happened to have a cipher in the unit's place. A clear and fine day, in every way more pleasant than last Sunday, was the twenty-fifth of December, 1860, but it was frightfully cold. In some places in England the thermometer ranged 18 degrees below zero, and the frost on New Year's Day was very nearly as severe. A few degrees make an immense difference to those who are exposed to the weather. That first of January was a remarkably clear, bright, and pleasant day, but while you were examining the bulb of the glass and noting as the sun was shining that the register was still some thirty-six degrees below freezing point, and had been in the earlier morning forty-four degrees, it was not easy to appreciate the otherwise charming characteristics of the atmosphere. The coldest day ever known in London was a Christmas Day, just seventy-four years ago. The occurrence is not fresh in the memory of many of us. The register then was 16 degrees below zero, and though that was beaten only ten years ago in many parts of England, it has not been equalled in the metropolis, which is in by no means the coldest latitude of our island. We had some excessively sharp weather in the first week in January only three years ago, when the mercury fell below zero in London, but the severity did not set in till after Christmas Day. A very remarkable frost was one that began on Christmas Day 1766, and lasted till the 17th of January, when there was one day's thaw, followed by another week of excessively sharp frost. The continuance of intense cold for nearly a month was terrible in its effects upon the population and vegetation.

THE WANT OF THE AGE.

The following letter under the signature of "Celibate" appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Friday:—

In this letter I approach my chief position and unfold my theory with the boldness which becomes a man, yet not without the modesty which is proper to a celibate. What is the great want of the age? More competitive candidates, governesses, and clerks? No. More churches? No. More curates? Emphatically no. It is more cooks and better cooks. In the recognition and working out of this idea I see before me the growth of feminine intelligence, the development of feminine administrative capacity, the attainment by woman of position, money, privileges, power—in short, of all that is dear to her heart, including what shopkeepers call an extensive and superior choice of husbands. "There is no such thing, my wife tells me," said a professional man to me lately, "as obtaining a good cook with a good character at anything like reasonable wages. And I believe it. We had one, a very plain cook, both in accomplishments and manners, to whom we gave £15 per annum. Finding she knew nothing, I paid two guineas to have her properly instructed at a school of cookery. This done, she immediately demanded that her wages should be doubled. As we declined to comply, she left us and obtained easily £30 elsewhere. Reflecting on the loss of our two guineas, my wife proposed that she should herself take a course of lessons at the said school, to which I joyfully agreed, and never has our money been better invested." Good eating—by which I mean partaking leisurely and with discrimination of clean and well-cooked dishes of food in judicious and harmonious succession—is conducive to health and happiness, and preserves, if it does not create, beauty. It keeps the eyes bright and fair, and gives a peculiar polish and elasticity to the skin. Englishwomen are beautiful in spite of their cookery. French women look handsome and charming very often because of it. Our girls, as long as they are young and satisfy their appetites on milk, fruit, eggs, &c., preserve, with the aid of fresh air and cold water, their fine complexions. But when married life begins, and the eating of heavy, badly-cooked late dinners is an inevitable duty, then we see cadaverous complexions, a blotchy or wrinkled skin, dimmed eyes, sleepless and disturbed nights; or, on the other hand, bloodshot yellow eyes, unwieldly proportions, purple visage, a red nose; termination—hypochondria, liver complaint, with possibilities of apoplexy. Meagre feeding is compatible with perfect health, though not with beauty; but dirtily-prepared, indigestible, unappetizing food destroys both health and good looks—the temper and the stomach; it ruins a man's temporal happiness and imperils his spiritual prospects: for how shall he who cannot digest his food retain the equanimity and temper of a Christian gentleman? Every person of sense, and even the majority of stupid people, will admit this; nor will they deny that want of knowledge of the elements of the science of cooking our food is one of our natural deficiencies, and one which we are just beginning to realize very deeply. We are heavy, sad, and ignorant feeders; but we are not gross and greedy feeders like the Germans, the north Germans especially. This in my mind fully accounts for a certain brutal animalism which (culture notwithstanding) the Prussians are always apt to exhibit whenever they are afraid that they shall not have enough to eat. And the farther they get from the base of their food supplies, the more nervous and savage in consequence they will become. How would it have been with Berlin and London had they been invested as Paris is at this moment, and the inhabitants been made practically acquainted with the elegant distich so affectionately referred to lately by a Saturday Reviewer as the chronic cry of his childhood, "Nineteen, twenty, my belly's empty?" Either of these cities must have capitulated before now from sheer starvation. The Germans because they would have devoured every particle of food in whatever shape or kind; the Londoners because, reduced to area cats and the like creatures, we should have had neither the art to disguise them decently nor the scientific culinary knowledge to prepare them palatably. If Paris is to be saved it will be at least as much by culinary knowledge and skill as by feats of arms.

I am not at present considering the case of the daughters of shopkeepers, the burghers, the wives of clerks, but of those who can afford to keep the creatures they are pleased to call their cooks, and who dare to eat the decoctions and messes prepared by them. On this point, of course, I have my own ideas; and just as I think that every man who keeps horses should know how his stable is conducted and understand every operation from the putting on of a shoe to the drying of a cracked heel, so every woman ought to know the proper method of cooking whatever dish she chooses to command; and in these days of kitcheners, stoves, and other neat contrivances, a good deal might be effected, and much legitimate influence obtained, by simply using the services of an ordinary kitchen maid, controlled and directed by an ingenious, enterprising housewife. I am speaking of the number of girls of the poorer classes who under the new bill will receive the elements of education so called, and be turned thenceforth loose on the world to swell indefinitely the already large crowd of young women all eagerly competing for food, subsistence, employment, money, and husbands—a great number of them quite unfit or unable to procure all or even any of these things. There are the orphans, foundlings, vagabonds, Arabs—well, I say, make them all into cooks. The want of this age is cooks. Here we have the raw material for supplying it, besides the really splendid prospects for the girls themselves. Moreover, by the misfortunes of our neighbours we have just now a special opportunity for enlightenment and instruction. Of the many thousand distressed French men and women who are now driven to dwell with us, surely some, indeed many, would be found who would be glad to undertake to teach us their method of preparing food in a manner at once simple and scientific, wholesome and cleanly, economical and appetizing. I can only say that if the tide of emigration on our shores does in any way disseminate the true principles of cookery, however simple and elementary, among the English people, these poor Frenchwomen will have amply repaid us for all the money we have subscribed for the sick, the wounded, and the suffering husbands, brothers, and sons in their own land. Take cooks as they are among us at present. A thoroughly accomplished man-cook commands from £200 up to quite a fancy price. A very moderate woman-cook, who has no knowledge of any part of her métier, except the mechanical, who is both ignorant, wasteful, and professionally dirty, may, provided she is sober and clean in her person, obtain from £25 to £40 wages (which is the price of half the governesses), besides the best consideration of the baker and the greengrocer, and the respectful attentions of the policeman. Now a woman who understood as much of cooking as an ordinary Frenchwoman, who considered it in the same earnest and serious light, who was economical on scientific principles, who was exact in her quantities, rigid in her qualities, intelligent in her flavourings, and professionally and fastidiously clean in her properties—her pots and pans and cloths and so on—would, I do not hesitate to say, obtain from £80 to £150, and be sure at last of the homage and the unceasing affection of one husband, or, if polygamy were allowed, of several.

There is no doubt that one-half of the food supply in England is literally wasted from ignorance of the way to cook it; and the hypochondria and dyspepsia which are supposed to be our national characteristics arise from the same cause. Meat or flour, as the case may be, is cooked or half-cooked in an indigestible, unwholesome, unpalatable manner. That which is with us thrown into the waste-tub would in skilful, artistic hands furnish admirable, succulent, and inviting dishes. In France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, and even in Spain, the women perform all their culinary operations with intelligence, and find legitimate pride in the results. In Germany the women also prepare the food in a fashion which, if unrefined, is at least economical, and is well suited to the coarser appetite of the German male. I contend that after the three R's, instruction in cookery and in the economical use and preparation of food ought to be the one thing taught to the children of the poor, as being a sure means of making a comfortable home and of earning readily an honourable competence. All foundlings, Arabs, the homeless and moneyless, when caught and housed, clothed and fed, ought to be made into cooks. Take, for example, those well-known institutions the Foundling and the Albert and Orphan Asylums. If the authorities of these places were sensible, practical men, they should every year turn out a fair number of ambitious, intelligent, and skilful young cooks, and would, to use a phrase once more in vogue, deserve well of their country for so doing. More than this, it would be desirable that the girls of the lower middle classes, as well as of the very poor, should have their understandings informed and their attention invited to the profession. Their ambition should be stimulated by explaining to them the excellent opportunities which are open to them, the liberal remuneration, the great consideration and comfort which even moderate abilities, with conscientious study, are sure to procure, and the really magnificent prospects which genuine capacity and inventive power, united to good conduct, are perfectly certain to realize.

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GOSSIP.

Wagner has been lately suffering very badly from a nervous complaint. He is better now, and is working away at the third part of his "Nibelungen Trilogy."

Mr. Hotten publishes "Gamosagammon; or, Hints on Hymen, for the Use of Parties about to Connubialize." The author is the Hon. Hugh Rowley, editor of "Puniana."

A great Beethoven Concert has been given in Berlin with the aid of Madame Schumann and Joachim. A composition, by the great violinist, in the shape of a march "simple and original" created some enthusiasm. *Musical Standard.*

On the visit recently of the Mario Concert Party to Ipswich, Mdlle. Liebhart paid the town the compliment of singing the "Song of Peace," by Mr. Barwell, a native of Ipswich. The pianoforte accompaniment was also by an Ipswich lady, Mrs. Arthur Wykes Cole, who, as a special compliment, was requested by the artistes to play her own accompaniment, a very unusual honour for provincial professors.

Some of the very best modern authors are not writers by profession. Grote, author of the "History of Greece," is a banker. John Stuart Mill's greatest literary labours were done in the intervals of clerking at the East India House. William Morris, the author of "The Earthly Paradise," is a sort of upholsterer, keeping a great shop for the sale of ecclesiastical and mediæval furniture and devices. Matthew Arnold, poet and essayist, has a place in the Board of Education. Sir John Lubbock, author of "Prehistoric Times," is a banker. William Robert Grove, author of "The Correlation of Physical Forces," is a busy lawyer, and for some years has been leader of the South Wales and Chester Circuit. In America, Bryant has been a journalist for some seventy years; Holmes has been a practising physician; Sprague was a banker; Hallack was Mr. Astor's secretary.

THE FRATERNITY OF LETTERS.—The "fraternity of literature," "the republic of letters"—these are the names used to indicate the aggregate of men who support themselves by their pen. The latter phrase is strikingly appropriate for one reason if for no others. The republic of letters resembles every other republic of modern times in this one particular, it is full of divisions and split up into factions; its members live in a state of shallow amity or of ill-disguised mutual dislike, jealousy, and suspicion. To the abstract cause of literature your modern *literati* and *literatuli* may or may not be loyal; they are certainly not loyal to the cause as it is bodied forth in its representatives. There is something absolutely sickening in the knowledge of the fact that the boon companions, the literary *confrères*, who sit together smoking their pipes and sipping their brandy-and-water one hour, will when they separate, if they should either of them fancy that it is in the slightest degree conducive to their interests so to do, abuse each other as roundly as if they were in reality avowed enemies, instead of by pretence sworn friends. A publisher has to suggest something to one of the pair; we will call him Jones. The work in question is of such a nature that he requires some *collaborateur*. What does he, Jones, think of Smith? The opinion which he, Jones, individually holds is on the whole not one of enthusiastic admiration of Smith's abilities. Far be it from him to say anything at all prejudicial to Smith; still—well, what does Jones think? Oddly enough Jones's opinion entirely coincides with that of Jones; Smith is a good fellow enough no doubt in the abstract, but so far as brains or work are concerned, Jones's idea, he is sorry to say, is that Smith is an egregious "duffer." This sort of thing runs through the whole business; this taint of jealousy and venom pollutes the purity of the entire atmosphere of that delightful creation, the republic of letters. Mr. Huff and Mr. Muff meet together and criticize Mr. Puff's last novel *from top to bottom.* Mr. Puff is a great friend professedly both of Mr. H. and Mr. M. They were dining at his house last night, and did not hesitate then to inform Mr. P., in no measured terms, that they considered the aforesaid fiction, as a work of art, simply perfect. "Devilish clever I call it," said Huff; "what say you Muff?"—"It is simply the best book of the season," returned Muff, helping himself to a glass of sherry, whereat the flattered Puff blushed and thanked his kind friends. To-day when Mr. H. meets Mr. M. he accidentally observes, "I've been reading a chapter of Puff's novel, and, upon my soul, it is the weakest twaddle I ever came across." Exactly Muff's view. He always said, and he says so now, that Puff can't write a line; and, adds this pleasant gentleman of honour, "I have written a notice of the book for the *Scourge,* in which I have plainly stated as much."—"Hope Puff will like it," replies Huff. "Hope so too; have a glass of sherry, old boy?" In these sketches there is no exaggeration.—*Britannia.*

An Englishman, who deserves well of his country, had a large family, to which additions were constantly making. One day one of his little boys was thus interrogated:—"John, how many brothers and sister's have got got?" "I don't know," answered the boy, "I hain't been home since morning!"

A letter from Meram, in the Tyrol, where the Empress of Austria is now staying, says that her Majesty, accompanied by her sisters and her children, makes frequent excursions in the neighbourhood. Notwithstanding the bad weather, the Empress rises at six o'clock every morning and walks out daily.—*Eastern Budget.*

THE KINGDOM OF ITALY.—In last Friday's sitting of the Italian Parliament, the House, after discussing the declarations of the Ministers in reference to the material difficulties in the way of an immediate transfer of the capital to Rome, approved the Government proposition that the transfer should take place within six months. The entire bill for the transfer was passed by 192 against 18 votes. The Chamber also approved the motion which was brought forward by 200 members, expressing the gratitude of Florence for the patriotic conduct of the Romans during the siege. The Chamber then adjourned until the 16th of January.

"Some months since my wife was suffering with a bad cough and severe pains in the chest, and totally unable to attend to her ordinary duties. She was advised to try Perry Davis's Pain Killer, and, after taking a few doses, was restored to perfect health, which she still enjoys. I also use it for piles, from which I have long suffered severely, and one dose (taken internally) has invariably given me relief. JAMES BRADSHAW, *Hopwood St., Liverpool, Dec. 26, 1867.*—To Perry Davis & Son."

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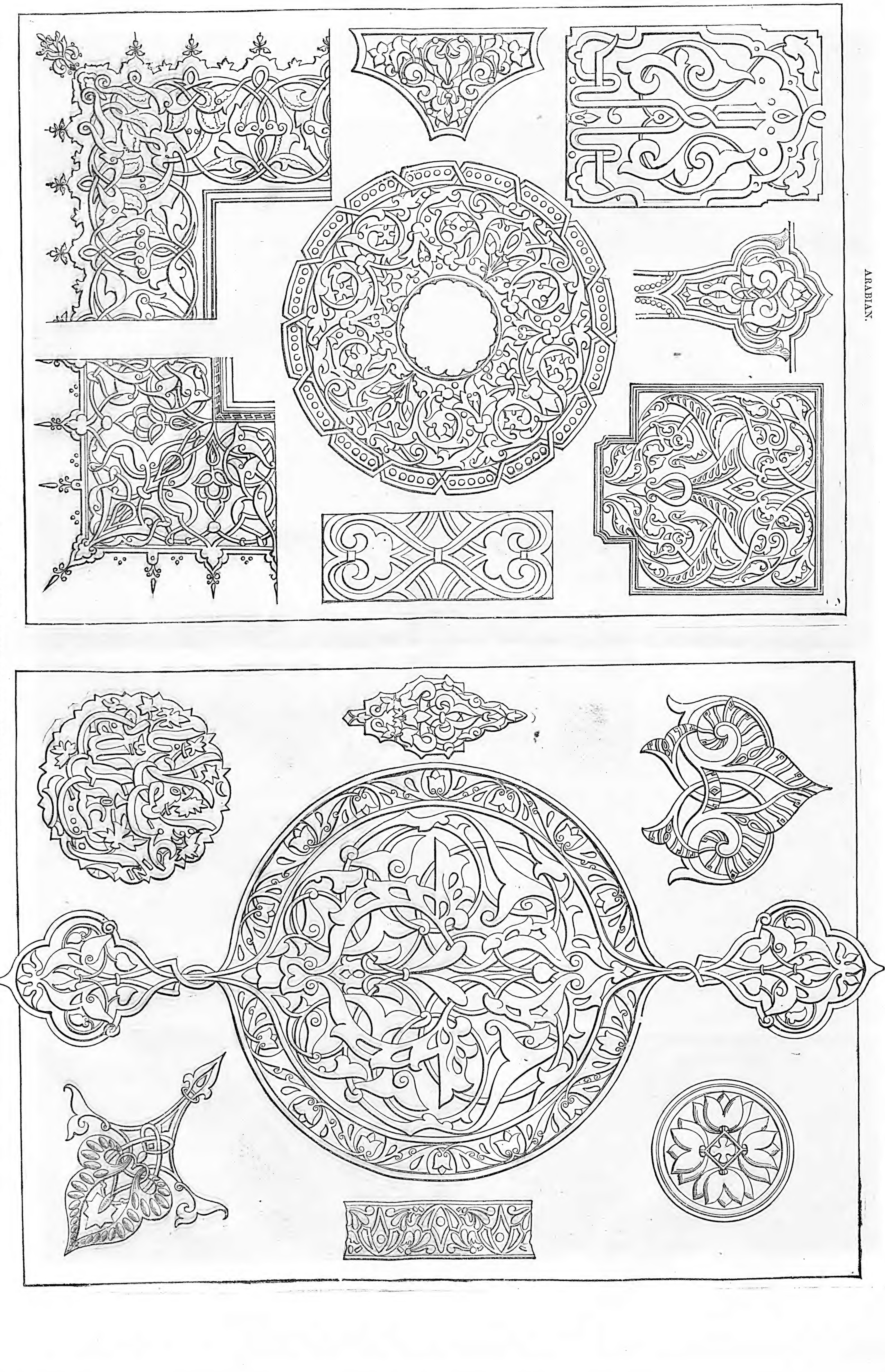
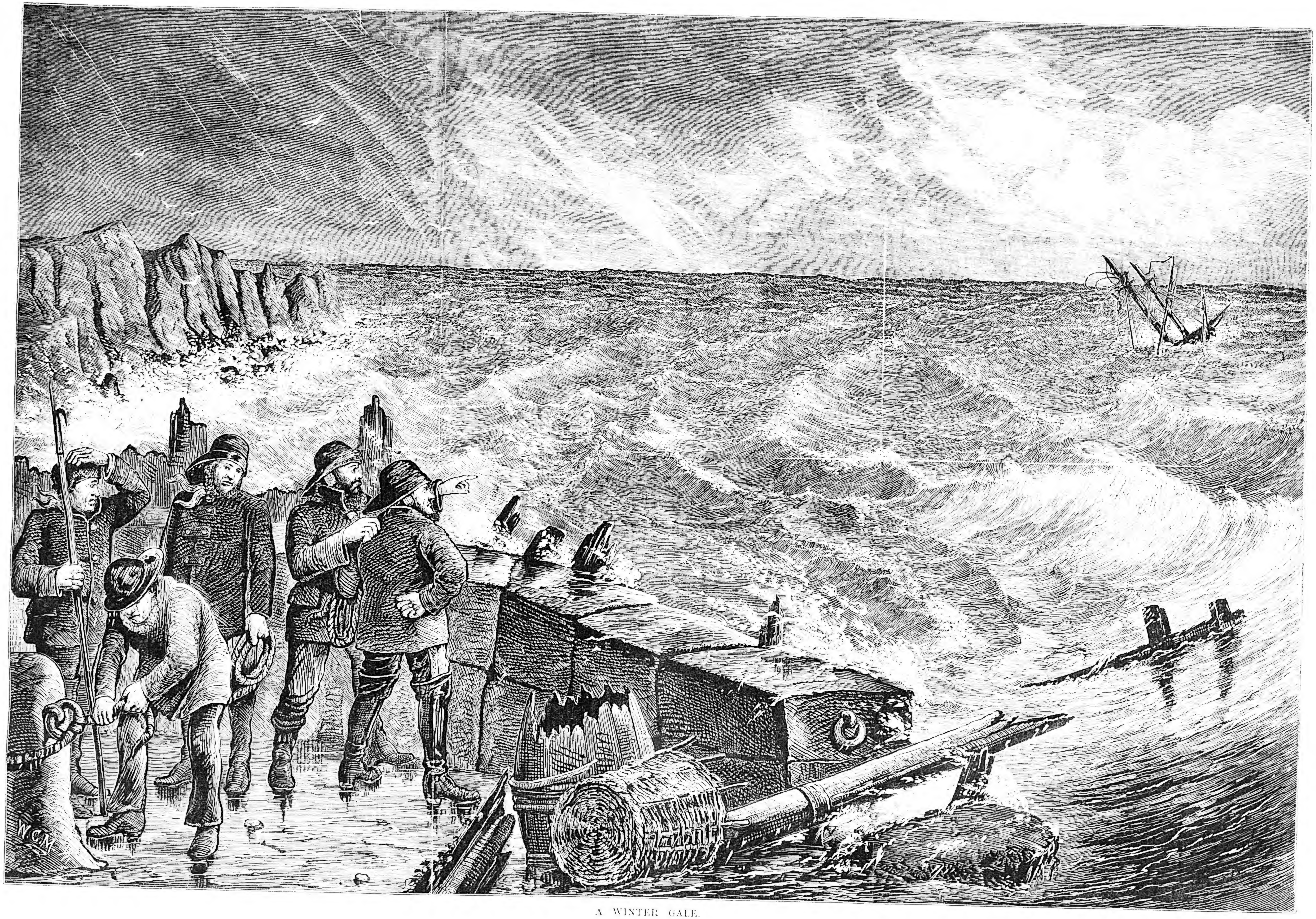


ARABIAN.

THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.—To be Continued.

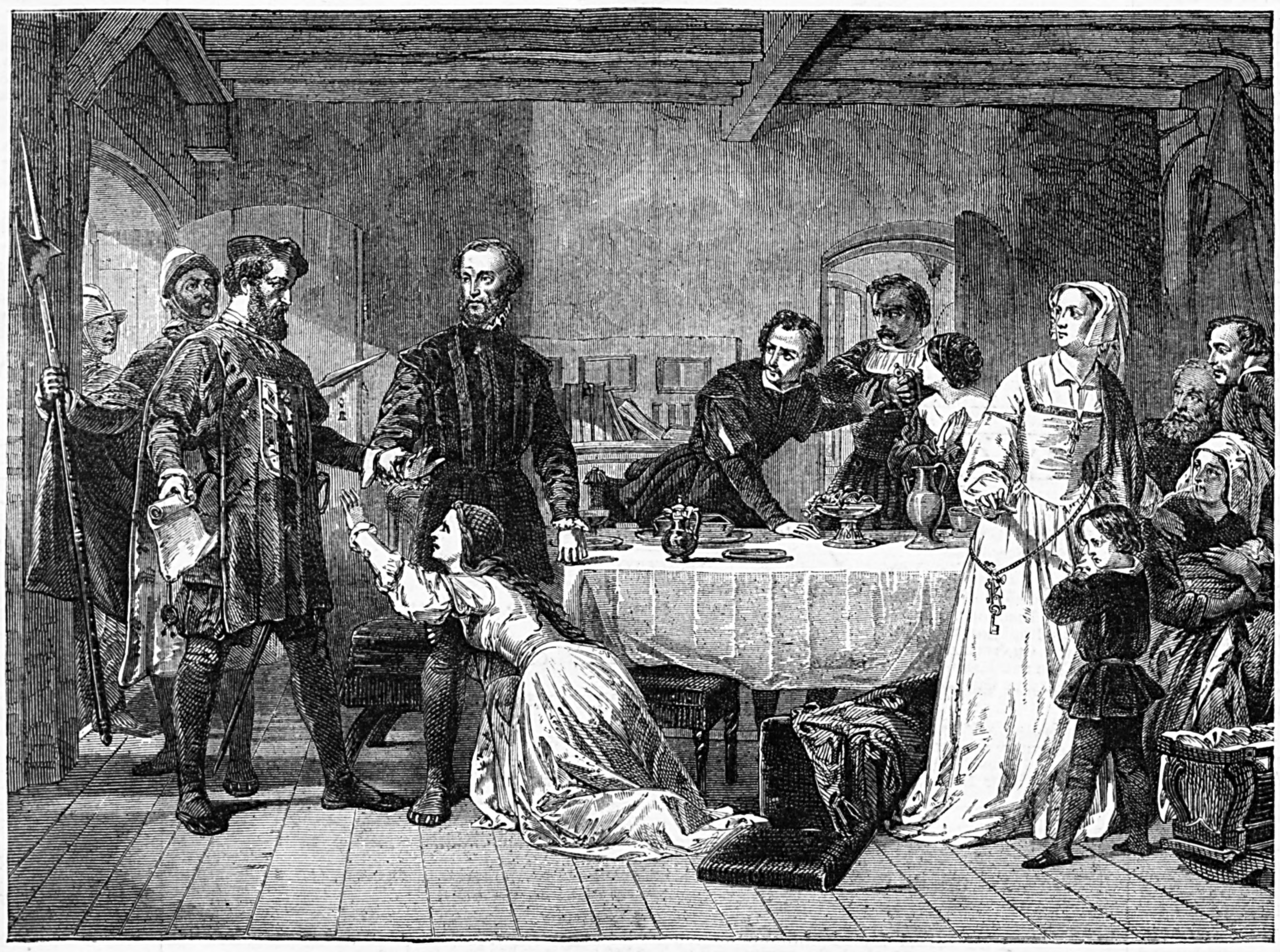


A WINTER GALE.

JOHN BROWN THE MARTYR.

The story of John Brown the Martyr, the scene of whose arrest on a charge of heresy is depicted on this page, is thus graphically and vividly told by D'Aubigne, in his "History of the Reformation:"—In the spring of 1557, a priest happened to be on board the passage-boat from London to Gravesend with an intelligent and pious Christian of Ashford, by name John Brown. The priest, turning towards Brown, said to him insolently: "You are too near me, get farther off. Do you know who I am?" "No, sir," answered Brown. "Well, then, you must know that I am a priest." "Indeed, sir; are you a parson, or vicar, or a lady's chaplain?" "No; I am a *soul-priest*," he haughtily replied; "I sing mass to save souls." "Do you, sir?" rejoined Brown somewhat ironically; "that is well done; and can you tell me where you find the soul when you begin the mass?" "I cannot," said the priest. "And where you leave it when the mass is ended?" "I do not know." "What!" continued Brown, with marks of astonishment, "you do not know where you find the soul or where you leave it, . . . and yet you say that you save it!" "Go thy ways," said the priest angrily, "thou art a heretic, and I will be even with thee."

That day John Brown reached home. Three days later, his wife, Elizabeth, who had just left her chamber, went to church, dressed all in white, to return thanks to God for delivering her in the perils of childbirth. Her husband, assisted by her daughter Alice and the maid-servant, were preparing for their friends the feast usual on such occasions; and they had all of them taken their seats at table, joy beaming in every face, when the street-door was abruptly opened, and Chilton, the constable, accompanied by several of the archbishop's apparitors, seized upon the worthy townsman. All sprang from their seats in alarm; but the primate's officers pulled Brown out of the house, and placed him on horseback, tying his feet under the animal's belly. Brown was thrown into prison and there left for forty days. At the end of this time the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Rochester called before them the impudent fellow who doubted whether a priest's mass could save souls, and requred him to retract this "blasphemy." But Brown, if he did not believe in the mass, believed in the Gospel: "Christ was once offered," he said, "to take away the sins of many. It is by this sacrifice we are saved, and not by the repititions of the priests." At this reply the archbishop made a sign to the executioners, one of whom took off the shoes and stockings of this pious Christian, while the other brought in a pan of burning coals, upon which they set the martyr's feet. The English, laws, in truth, forbade torture to be inflicted on any subject of the crown, but the clergy thought themselves above the laws. "Confess the efficacity of the mass," cried the two bishops to poor Brown. "If I deny my Lord upon earth," he replied, "He will deny me before His Father in Heaven." The flesh was burnt off the soles of the feet even to the bones, and still John Brown remained unshaken. The bishops, therefore, ordered him to be given over to the secular arm, that he might be burnt alive. On the Saturday preceding the festival of the Pentecost, in the year 1517, the martyr was led back to Ashford, where he arrived just as the day was drawing to a close. A number of idle persons were collected in the street, and among them was Brown's maid-servant, who ran off crying to the house, and told her mistress: "I have seen him! . . . He was bound, and they were taking him to prison." Elizabeth hastened to her husband, and found him sitting with his feet in the stocks, his features changed by suffering, and expecting to be burnt alive on the morrow. The poor woman sat down beside him, weeping most bitterly; while he, being hindered by his chains, could not so much as bend towards her. "I cannot set my feet to the ground," said he, "for bishops have burnt them to the bones; but they could not burn my tongue and prevent my confessing the Lord. . . . O Elizabeth! . . . continue to love Him, for He is good; and bring up our children in His fear." On the following morning, the brutal Chilton and his assistants led Brown to the place of execution, and fastened him to the stake. Elizabeth and Alice, with his other children and his friends, desirous of receiving his last sigh, surrounded the pile, uttering cries of anguish. The fagots were set on fire, while Brown, calm and collected, and full of confidence in the blood of the Saviour, clasped his hands, and repeated the words of an old hymn. The martyr then was silent: the flames had consumed their victim. Then redoubled cries of anguish rent the air. His wife and daughter seemed as if they would lose their senses. The bystanders shewed them the tenderest compassion, and turned with a movement of indignation towards the executioners. The brutal Chilton perceiving this, cried out: "Come along; let us toss the heretic's children into the flames, lest they should one day spring from their father's ashes." He rushed towards Alice, and was about to lay hold of her, when the maiden shrank back screaming with horror. To the end of her life she recollected the fearful moment; and to her we are indebted for the particulars. The fury of the monster was checked. Such were the scenes passing in England shortly before the Reformation.

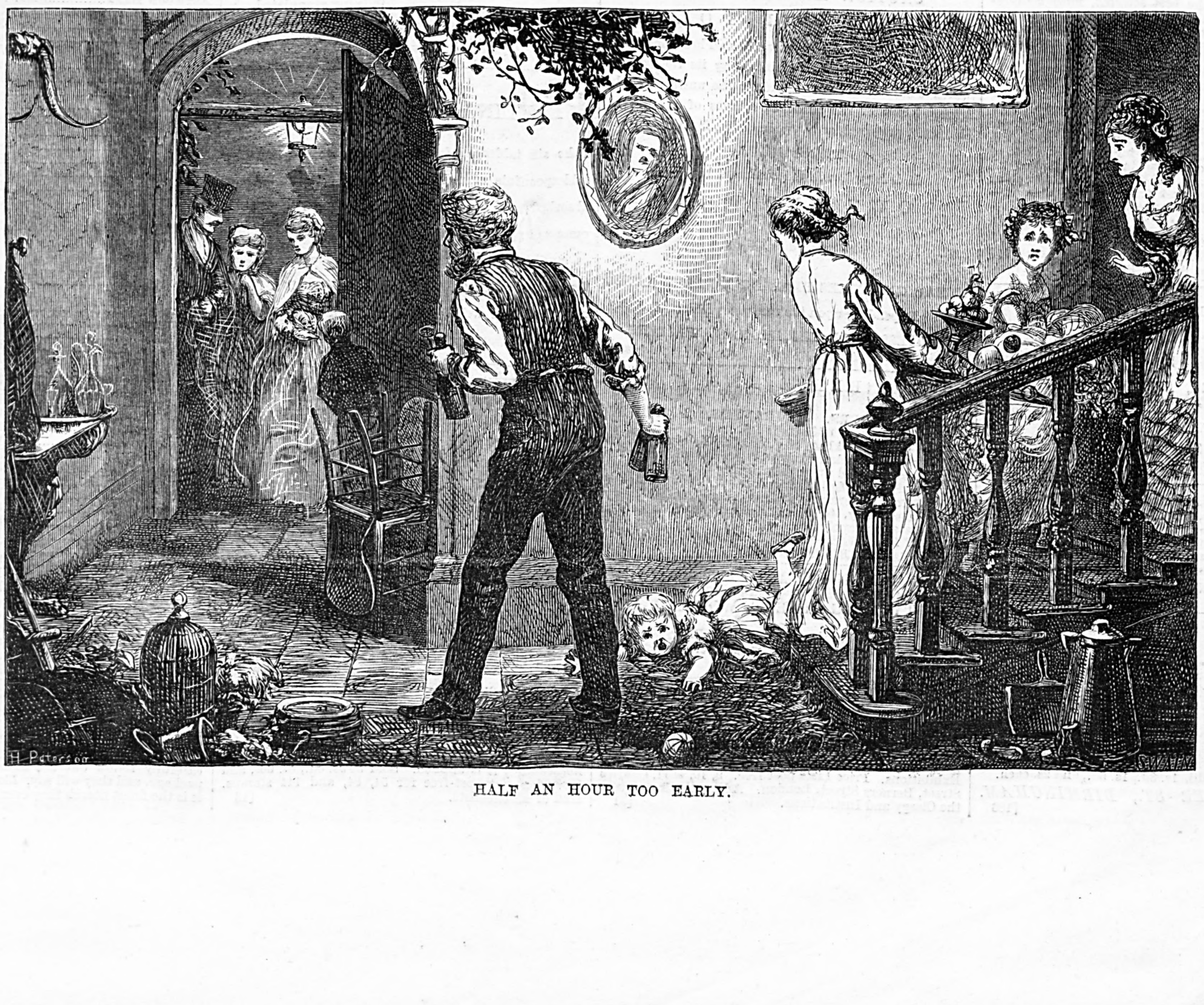


THE ARREST OF OF JOHN BROWN THE MARTYR.

The Neutrality of Luxembourg.—In his answer to Count Bismarck's Circular relative to the violation of neutrality by the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Lord Granville expresses his regret that the Grand Ducal Government should have given cause for the reclamations made by the Government of the North German Confederation. However, Earl Granville adds, that, before coming to a decided opinion upon the matter, he must await the expression of the views of the other Governments interested, and especially the justification of the Government of Luxemburg. The tone of the English despatch is friendly and concilatory; the English Goverment entertains the hope that Germany does not propose to renounce formally the Treaty of 1867, and that, in any case, she will be prepared to take part in deliberations in view of arriving at a pacific solution before taking any further steps. The reply of the Luxemburg Government to the note of Count Bismarck of the 3rd of December is dated the 14th inst. It complains of exaggerations on the part of the German Government, and asserts that Prussia had repeatedly recognised the scrupulous conduct of Luxemburg in maintaining its neutrality. The reply acknowledges that only one provision train freighted for another country was arrested by the Prussian military at the frontier; while thousands of trains loaded with provisions for the German armies, which had been purchased in Luxemburg had been forwarded by the Luxemburg Railway, and the carriages had not been returned, but used for the transport of German troops and material of war. The territory of the Grand Duchy, it is further averred, had been frequently invaded by German troops in arms; while the French Consul had merely facilitated the journey of necessitous Frenchmen to the neutral territory of Belgium. The Luxemburg despatch adds, that the guarantee of neutrality becomes simply worthless if repudiated by a single Power.

The Imperial Crown of Germany.—The *New German (Cross) Gazette* states that the British Envoy, Mr. Odo Russell, on the 18th instant, desired Count Bismarck to convey to the King of Prussia the congratulations of her Britannic Majesty's Government on the occasion of the request preferred by the German Princes, the Free Towns, and the North German Parliament, that the King of Prussia should accept the Imperial Crown.

The *Pesther Lloyd* positively contradicts the report that a separate convention has been entered into between Russia and Turkey with regard to the Black Sea Question. It attributes this report to the intrigues of General Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, and Khalilbey, the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, with both of whom the wish is father to the thought; but that no such convention is even in contemplation is best proved by the fact that Count Beust has gone to Vevey for eight days to visit his family there.—*Eastern Budget.*



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Accumulated Funds, £1,850,000.

SECURITY TO LIFE ASSURERS.

From a quinquennial valuation of the entire Life liabilities made as at 31st December, 1869, by independent Actuaries at 3 per cent. nett premiums, the Life Assets showed a Surplus over Liabilities of £249,956. Enabling the Directors to declare a Revisionary Bonus amounting to £7 10s. per cent. on each sum assured for the five years, and to still hold in reserve all profits accrued on Annuities and Endowments.

EXTRACT FROM LAST ANNUAL REPORT.

After payment of Dividend and Bonusses, the FUNDS of the Company stand as follows:—

Capital paid up	£289,095	0	0
Reserve Fund, and Profit and Loss Account	286,925	10	0
Life Assurance Funds	1,173,401	9	1

In Consequence of the Entire Abolition of Duty, the Company is new prepared to Grant Insurances on the Buildings of PRIVATE DWELLINGS and their CONTENTS at the following scale of charges, showing the total Annual Expense for the same, viz.:—

Furniture in Private Brick Dwellings.		*Buildings of Private Brick Dwellings.*	
£100	2s. 6d.	£100	2s.
150	3s.	150	2s. 6d.
200	4s.	200	3s.
300	6s.	300	4s. 6d.

JOHN H. McLAREN, *Manager.*
JOHN B. JOHNSTON, *Secretary in Loudon.*

MIDLAND DISTRICT BRANCH, 31, *BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM.*
Local Manager.—B. J. Whitehead.

EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY,
ESTABLISHED IN 1807, (FOR LIVES ONLY.)
79, *PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.*

DIRECTORS.

Robert Alexander Gray, Esq., *Chairman.* Joshua Lockwood, Esq., *Deputy-Chairman.*

Charles Bischoff, Esq.	The Right Hon. The Lord Lisgar, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.	Philip Rose, Esq.
Thomas Boddington, Esq.	Charles Jellicoe, Esq.	George Russell, Esq.
Charles Chatfield, Esq.	James Murray, Esq., C.B., F.R.G.S.	Thos. G. Sambrooke, Esq.
Sir J. Buller East, Bart., D.C.L.		Admiral Tindal.
W. Augustus Guy, M.D., F.R.S.		

Actuary and Secretary—GEORGE HUMPHREYS, Esq., M.A.

The Annual Report for 1869—1870, circulated August, 1870, showed that the Income for the year was:—

For Premiums	£369,514	15	9
For Interest on Investments, and Balance of Profit and Loss Account	158,864	2	4
	£528,378	18	1
That the Expenses of Management were	£15,710	16	1
(Or 3 per cent. on the total Income.)			
And that the Cash and Securities in hand amounted to	£3,247,686	17	6
(Bearing an average interest of £4 5s. per cent.)			

FURTHER SECURITY.

A Subscribed Capital of	£1,722,500	0
Of which the original call of Ten per cent only has been paid up.		

Four-fifths of the ascertained surplus are divided every fifth year amongst the policy holders assured with profits. The addition to the Surplus Fund in 1870 was £118,234. The next division will take place in 1872.

AGENTS IN BIRMINGHAM.
Messrs. Beale and Marigold.
,, Matthias & J. M. Green.
,, Saunders and Bradbury.
Mr. W. S. Allen.

NOTTINGHAM.
Mr. D. W. Heath, County Coroner's Office.

EVESHAM.
Mr. A. H. Wright.

LEICESTER.
Messrs. Miles, Gregory, and Bouskell.

WORCESTER.
Mr. John Jones, 18, Foregate Street.

BROWN & POLSON'S
B P TRADE MARK

PATENT CORN FLOUR.

CAUTION AGAINST PIRACY.

BROWN AND POLSON were the first to adopt the name Corn Flour, and they are greatly interested in maintaining its reputation, which is liable to be discredited by the unwarrantable appropriation of the name to articles of a different character, prepared, as in one instance, from Rice.

THE PUBLIC,
It is hoped, will discriminate, between
BROWN AND POLSON'S CORN FLOUR
which is prepared solely from Maize—Indian Corn,
AND
CHEAP QUALITIES BEARING A FALSE NAME,
Depending upon the recommendation of
PROFESSIONAL TESTIMONIAL WRITERS.
[936

J. CREESE AND CO.,
LITHOGRAPHERS, ENGRAVERS, PRINTERS, EMBOSSERS,
WHOLESALE STATIONERS, &c.,

Most gratefully acknowledge the great and increasing patronage bestowed upon them during upwards of Nine years, and respectfully inform their friends that they have recently re-arranged their premises, and laid down Steam Machinery, to enable them to execute orders with greater promptitude.

CASTLE STREET and YORK PASSAGE, (High-St.) BIRMINGHAM. [195

QUINN AND SON,
ADVERTISING CONTRACTORS.
15, TYTHING STREET, WORCESTER.

All the protected private Stations, Walls, Boards, and Hoardings. Charges strictly moderate. Established 1825. [601

KELLY'S HARMONIUMS, as manufactured for Her Majesty, the Duke of Edinburgh, &c., are the finest toned, best finished and cheapest Instruments of any yet produced, whether English or Foreign. Gained the ONLY AWARD for ENGLISH MANUFACTURE at the Paris and Dublin Exhibitions. Price Lists post free. 9, 10, & 11, Charles Street, Berners Street, London. A liberal allowance to the Clergy and Institutions. [51

PEARLINA
For
DELICIOUS PUDDINGS,
In great variety.

PEARLINA
Differs from Corn Flour,
in being granulated
and rich in gluten.

PEARLINA PLUM PUDDING.

Take six tablespoonfuls of Pearlina steeped in eight tablespoonfuls of milk for an hour, till the milk is absorbed; and add three ounces of minced suet, three ounces of raisins, three ounces of currants, three ounces of orange peel, a little ground cinnamon and ginger, four ounces of sugar, and three tablespoonfuls of flour; mix the whole well together, and boil in a cloth for three hours, leaving plenty of room for expanding.

THE NUTRITIOUS COCOA FOOD FOR HORSES AND CATTLE.
COST, ONE HALFPENNY PER FEED
Sole Manufacturers,
PALMER AND CO.
39, *WILSON STREET, FINSBURY, LONDON.*
Delivered free everywhere.
One Cwt., equal to 800 Feeds, for 34s.
Testimonials, with sample, sent free on application.

Consumers testify that this is the best and most economical Cattle Food to be procured, as, irrespective of its condimental properties, the ground work, *being Pure Cocoa*, is in itself good market value. [68

SPANISH FLY is the acting ingredient in ALEX. ROSS'S CANTHARIDES OIL, which speedily produces whiskers and thickens hair. 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d.; sent by post for 54, 84, and 144 stamps.—Alex. Ross, 243, High Holborn, London, and all chemists.

HAIR CURLING FLUID.—248, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON.—ALEX. ROSS'S CURLING FLUID curls ladies' and gentleman's hair immediately it is applied. Sold at 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d.; sent post-free for 54, 84, and 144 stamps. Had of all chemists. [13

VELVETEENS.
VELVETEENS.
VELVETEENS.

The Patent Moleskin Lyons-Finish Velveteens in Black and Colours, to be obtained only at BAKER and CRISP'S, from 17s. 6d. Full Dress. Patterns free.
198, Regent Street, London.

WINTER DRESSES.
Bright Satin Cloths, every Shade, equal to Silk, 10s. 9d. to 25s. Dress.
Patterns free.—198, Regent Street.
WINTER DRESSES.
Wool and Silk Serges, 7s. 11d. to 29s. 6d. Full Dress, Wool and Silk Repps, Roubaix and Coutil Cloths, 7s. 11d. to 29s. 6d. Full Dress.
SILK REPPS, very best quality, 27s. 6d.
Lorraine and Alsace Cloths,
Cashmere and Habit Cloths,
Diagonal and Honeycomb Cloths,
Genoa and Marine Serges,
6s. 11d. to 29s. 6d. Full Dress.
WINTER DRESSES.—A Speciality.—London Cords, 10s. 6d. and 15s. Kirtle Tartans, Acon Tweeds, Willow Cords and Clan Repps, Heather Tweeds, and Tullochgerum Costume Cloths, 8s. 9d. to 25s.
FRENCH MERINOS.—Seventy-nine Shades of Colour, 1s. 9d. per yard; very best, 2s. 6d.
French Flannels, 1s. yard.
All-Wool Plaids, 1¾ yard wide, 5s. 6d. yard; worth 10s. 6d. Every clan.
BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent Street, London.

NOTICE.—1,300 PIECES for CHARITIES, of good wide Aberdeen Winceys and Monks-Eleigh Linseys, at 25s., 27s., and 35s. piece of 54 to 60 yards each. Piece sent for P.O. order to BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent Street, London.

SILK VELVETS EXTRAORDINARILY CHEAP.
The War Panic has enabled BAKER and CRISP to buy and now offer the most extraordinary bargains ever seen in Black Lyons Silk Velvets,
viz., £2 14s. to 5 gs. Full Dress. [123

REMINISCENCES OF MARK LEMON.
Shortly, Cloth, 5s.

WITH A SHOW IN THE NORTH. By Joseph Hatton. Together with MARK LEMON'S LAST SONG, his Revised Text of Falstaff, and PORTRAIT IN COSTUME. Reprinted, with Additions, from the *Gentleman's Magazine.*

"Mr. Hatton's interesting reminiscences of Mark Lemon."—*Illustrated London News.*

"The Reminiscences of Mark Lemon have lately been one of the chief features of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and Chapter V. is not the least attraction of the present number."—*Examiner.*

"A series of articles which are read with real zest."—*Birmingham Daily Gazette.*

NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.

BRYAN AND MOULTON,
GLASS MANUFACTURERS,
AND CHINA MERCHANTS,
BIRMINGHAM.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—GREAT ADVANTAGES to Furnishers in GLASS and CHINA by going to the NEW GLASS AND CHINA WAREHOUSE,
10, WORCESTER STREET.

	s. d.	Gs.
CHEAP AND GOOD TOILET SETS	3 6 to	6
CHEAP AND GOOD DINNER SETS	12 6 to	40
CHEAP AND GOOD DESSERT SETS	10 6 to	10
CHEAP AND GOOD BREAKFAST SETS	4 6 to	6
CHEAP AND GOOD TEA SETS.		

Beautiful Bohemians and Alabaster Figures and Vases. French and German Goods, suitable for Presents.

NOTED FOR WEDDING AND BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.
RUSTIC FERNERIES, VASES, &c., &c.

OPAL AND GLASS LETTERS FOR SHOP WINDOWS, KEPT IN STOCK.
THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

1, *QUEEN'S BUILDINGS, WORCESTER STREET.* [136

LIST OF AGENTS
FOR THE
ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS.

Astwood Bank	Mr. Perkins
Bath	,, Chivers
Bilston	,, Fereday
Birmingham	Messrs. Smith and Son, Mr. Willey, &c.
Burton	Messrs. Whitehurst
Bromsgrove	Mr. Palmer
Coventry	,, Horsfall
Cradley Heath	,, Forrest
Darlaston	,, Slater
Derby	,, Harwood
Droitwich	,, Smith
Dudley	,, Hutchings
Edinburgh	Messrs. Menzies and Co.
Erdington	Mr. Pearson
Evesham	Messrs. Smith
Gloucester	,, Goulding
Halesowen	,, Hodgetts
Hanley	,, Timmis
Handsworth	,, Jones
Hereford	Messrs. Head and Hull
Kenilworth	Miss Evans
Kidderminster	Mr. Mark
Leamington	,, Arthur
Leicester	,, Hewitt
Leeds	,, Summergill
Liverpool	,, Doran
Manchester	,, J. Heywood
Nottingham	Miss Clayton
Oldbury	Mr. Lowe
Oxford	,, Harvey
Redditch	,, Heming
Rugeley	,, Manners
Sheffield	,, Weston
Small Heath	,, D. L. Marks.
Smethwick	,, Durose
Stafford	Messrs. Wright
Stoke	Mr. Woolley
Stourbridge	,, Field
Stratford	,, Paine
Tipton	,, Britten
Walsall	,, Wilkes
Warwick	,, Spennell
Wednesbury	,, Hillier
West Bromwich	,, Harris and Mr. Britten
Wolverhampton	Messrs. Barford and Newitt and Mr. Park
Worcester	Messrs. Deighton and Son

The Paper is supplied at the stalls of Messrs. Smith and Sons throughout the Kingdom.

GLENFIELD STARCH is the only kind used in Her Majesty's Laundry.

Those ladies who have not yet used the Glenfield Starch are respectfully solicited to give it a trial, and carefully follow out the directions printed on every package, and they will say, like the Queen's laundress, it is the finest Starch they ever used. [846

M. J. ROTHSCHILD,
Midland
WATCH MANUFACTORY,
Wholesale and for Exportation,
15, CAROLINE STREET,
BIRMINGHAM. [455

TRADE MARK

E. F. GRIFFIN & CO.,
Manufacturers of
GOLD PLATING, WIRE, TUBE,
Ornaments, Beads, Gold and Silver Solder, Gold Alloys, Compositions, &c., &c.
DIE SINKERS,
TOOL MAKERS, STAMPERS, AND PIERCERS,
82, *SPENCER STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [65

DIEU ET MON DROIT · TRADE QUALITY MARK · E.F.G. & CO. TEST.

SHELLARD AND HODGSON'S

ONE GUINEA

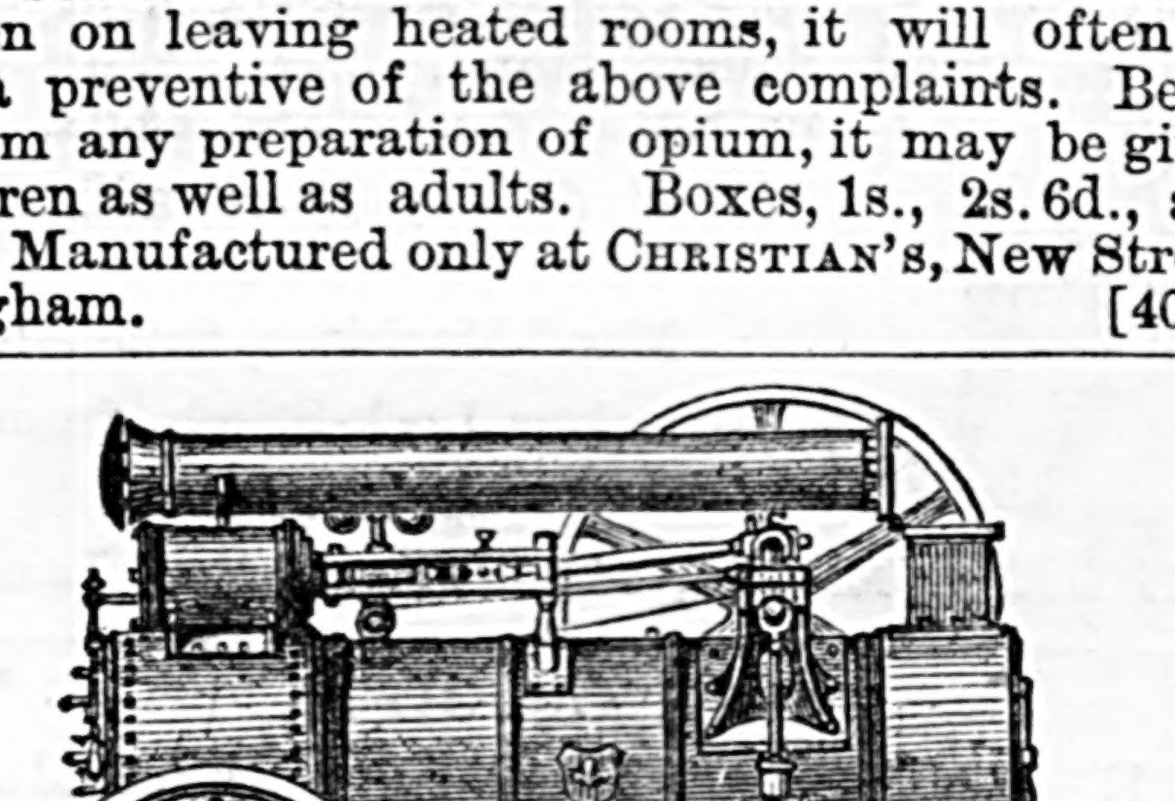
TWEED WATERPROOF

CLOAKS AND COSTUMES.

82, *HIGH STREET,*

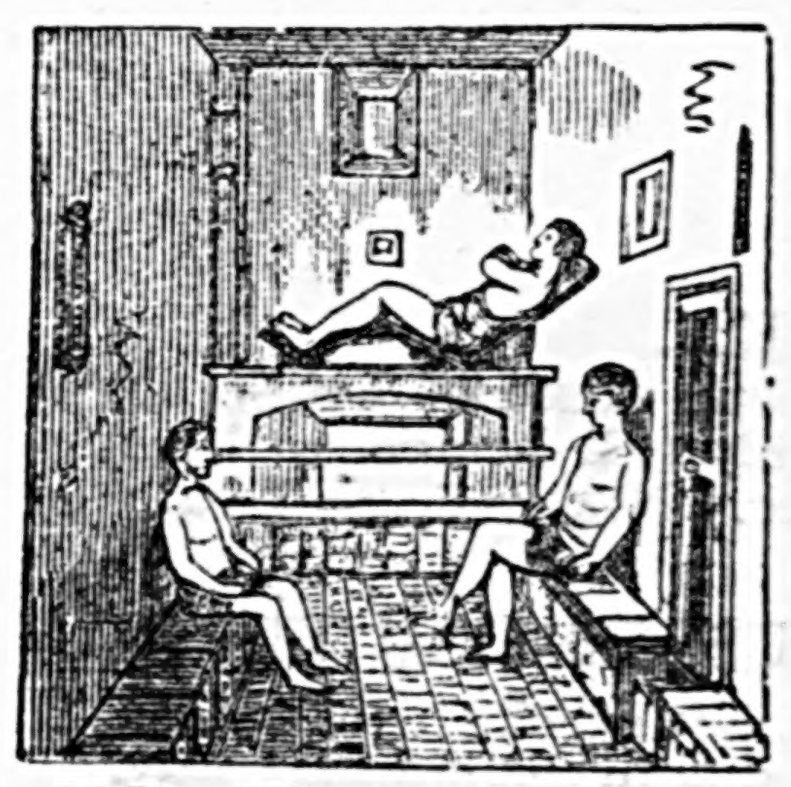
BIRMINGHAM. [735

CHRISTIAN'S PATE DE LICHEN, in the form of Lozenges, removes phlegm, and gives relief in most disorders of the voice, throat, and chest. In colds, accompanied by cough, hoarseness, and the peculiar tickling and dryness in the throat usually called huskiness, its beneficial effects are felt almost immediately. If taken on leaving heated rooms, it will often be found a preventive of the above complaints. Being free from any preparation of opium, it may be given to children as well as adults. Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. Manufactured only at CHRISTIAN'S, New Street, Birmingham. [408

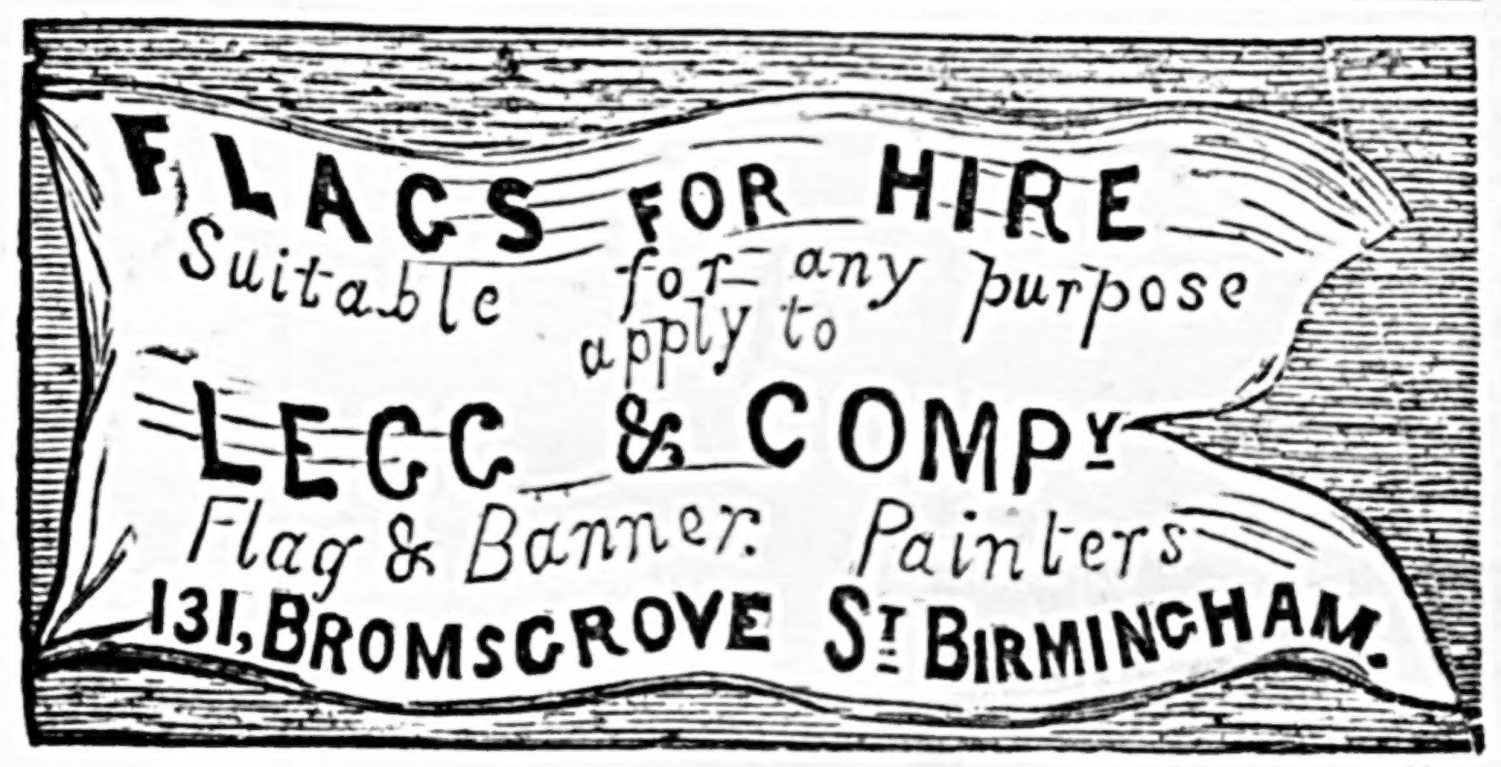


PORTABLE STEAM ENGINES,
MORTAR MILLS,
HAND MORTISING MACHINES, LATHES,
DRILLING MACHINES, &c., &c.,
FOR PARTICULARS APPLY TO
W. H. PEARSON, ENGINEER,
50, *ANN STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [941

PATENT TEETH ON SOFT GUMS.
MR. WILLIAM J. WATSON,
SURGEON DENTIST,
(Many years Assistant to Mr. ESKELL, of Bennett's Hill.)
Supplies every description of Artificial Teeth and Gums so largely advertised, at about one-third of the usual charges, being the *actual maker.*
SINGLE TEETH FROM 3s. 6d.,
SETS FROM £2 10s., INCLUDING ALL CHARGES.
Only address, [40
16, *NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*



TURKISH, VAPOUR, SULPHUR, AND MEDICATED BATHS,
No. 14, CRESCENT, CAMBRIDGE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.
Open daily for Ladies and Gentlemen (Sundays excepted) from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m.
LIST OF TERMS ON APPLICATION.
N.B.—The only Establishment in the Midland Counties where you can have such a variety of Baths for the purposes of luxury and health.
JAMES MELLING, *Proprietor.*
MISS MELLING, *Superintendent of the Ladies' Department.*
909]



[9

JOSEPH GILLOTT'S
STEEL PENS.
Sold by all Dealers throughout the World.

[511

THE EAST INDIA TEA COMPANY, 9, Great St. Helen's, Bishopgate-street, London, appoint Agents in every Town for the sale of their Teas. A good living may be made by this Agency. Apply for Prospectus as above. [853

NEXT OF KIN.—1871 Edition.—Now Ready, a Classified and Descriptive INDEX (of 20,000, names guaranteed) to Advertisements for Next of Kin, Chancery Heirs, Legatees, &c., from 1,700 to 1,871, post free 32 stamps. Address, Mr. CULLMER, 17, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. [858

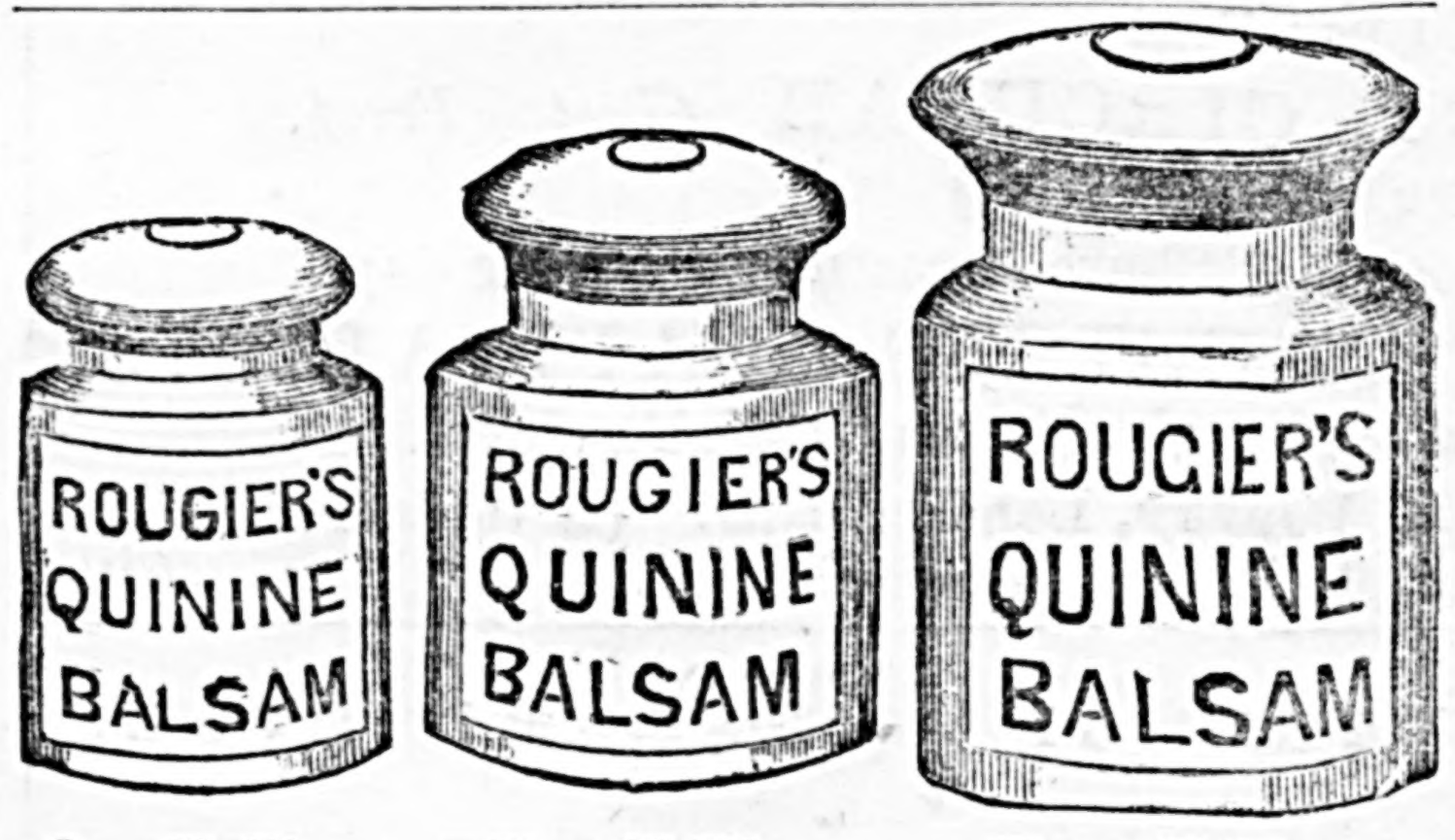
NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
MISS DRAPER, BERLIN AND FANCY REPOSITORY, from 24, BENNETT'S HILL, to 81, NEW STREET, OPPOSITE THE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS. [131

HUNT'S ECONOMICAL MOURNING AND FUNERAL WAREHOUSE,
94, *BULL STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*
BLACK SILKS, Deep and Half Mourning Dresses of Every Description.
SHAWLS, MANTLES, BONNETS, CAPS, and all kinds of Mourning Fancy Goods.
FUNERALS conducted with economy in any part of the country. [456

W. AND H. DEW,
SUCCESSORS TO RICHARD LLOYD,
GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSEMEN
AND UNDERTAKERS,
33, *NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*
[655

CANTHARIDINE
RESTORATIVE
FOR THE HAIR

Prepared by
H. PEDLEY, FAMILY CHEMIST,
29, *HORSE FAIR, BIRMINGHAM.*
In 1s. and 2s. 6d. Bottles. [88



One Shilling. Two Shillings. Three Shillings.

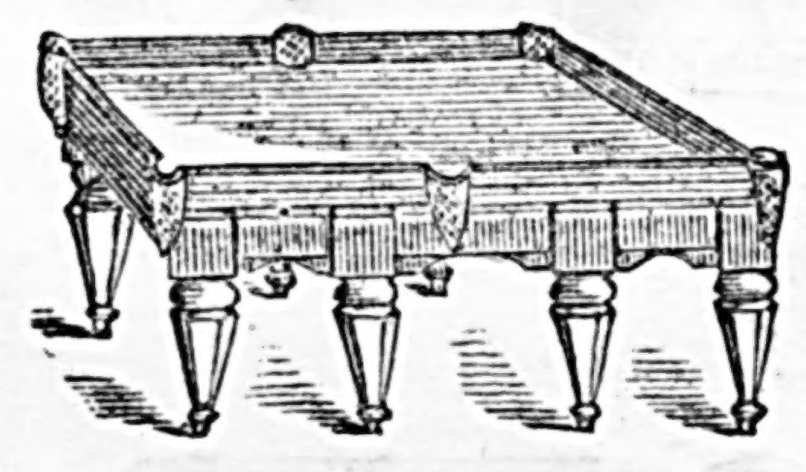
QUININE BALSAM.

THIS PREPARATION is used for Restoring and Preserving the Hair, preventing its falling off or discolouring, also retaining its moisture longer than any other preparation of the kind, giving a beautifully brilliant lustre to the Hair, and preserving the Curl.

Coarse Hair it renders soft and silky, more pleasant to the feel and pliable to Curl, and must supersede all other articles professing the same qualities.

Prepared only by J. ROUGIER, Wholesale Perfumer, 55, UNION PASSAGE, Birmingham. Sold in Bottles at 1s. 2s. and 3s. each. N.B.—Every known Article for the Toilet always on Stock. [37

CHARLES ALLDRIDGE AND SON



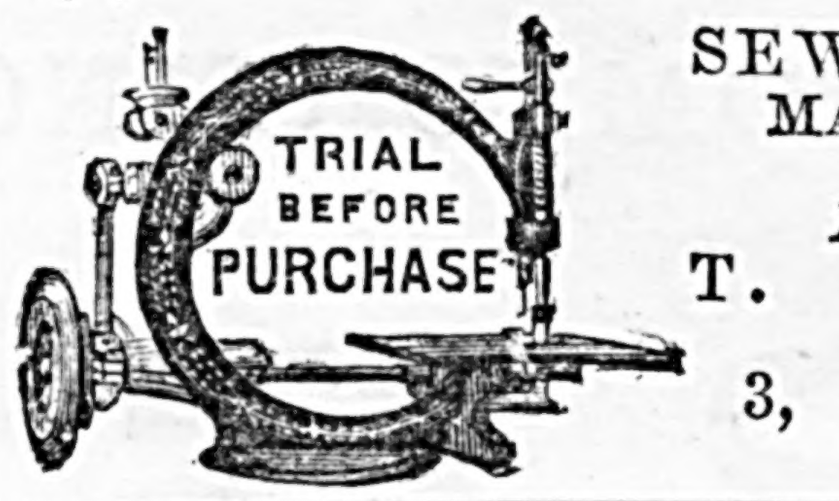
MANUFACTURERS OF BILLIARD TABLES, BAGATELLE TABLES.
Works & Show Room:
REGENT PARADE, CAROLINE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.
[594

THE
GREAT WESTERN HOTEL,
(Snow Hill Station.)
BIRMINGHAM.

"One of the most elegant, comfortable, and economical Hotels in the three kingdoms."—
The Field, July 31 [691

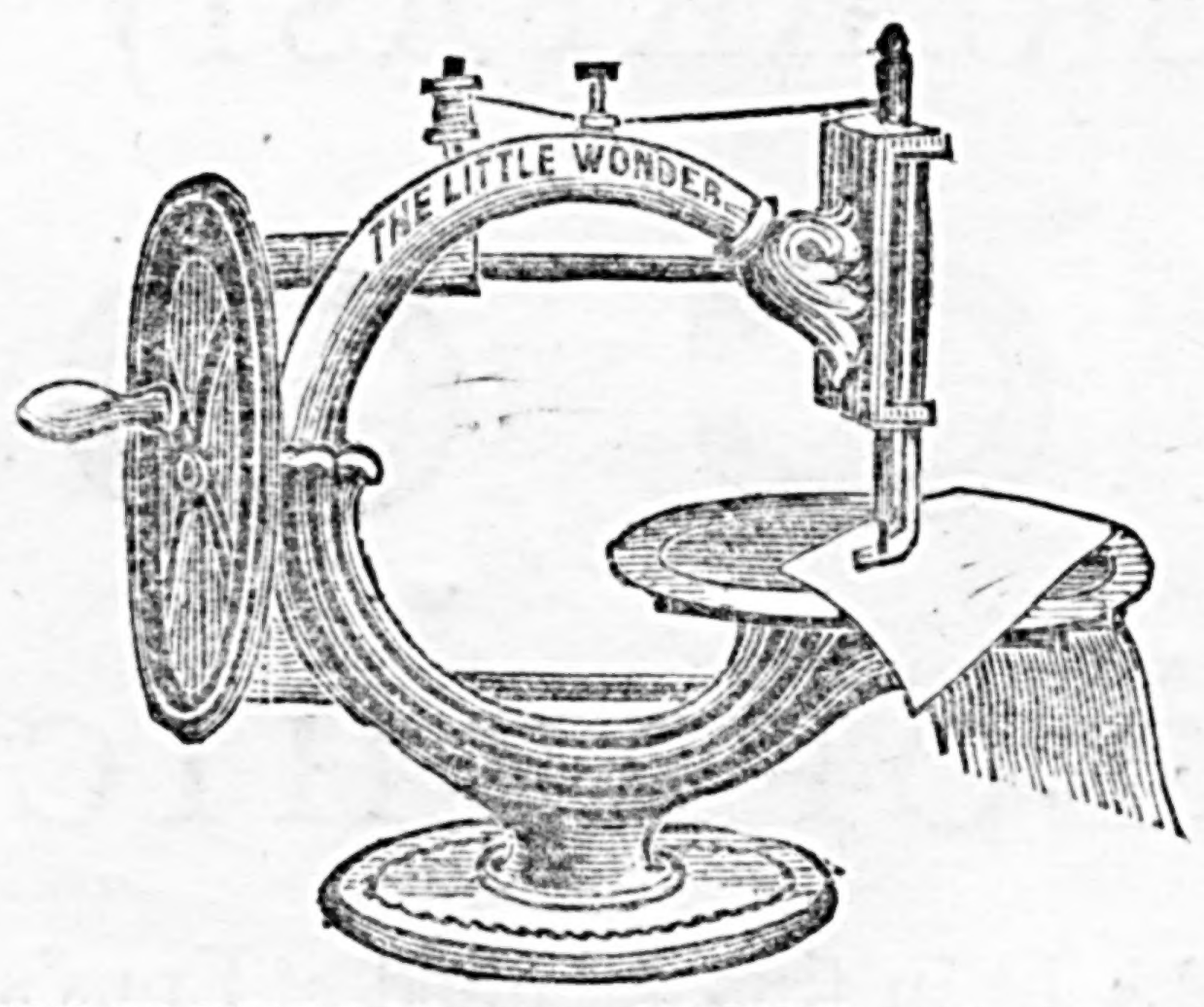
SUFFIELD'S DINING ROOMS
AND
LUNCHEON BAR,
UNION PASSAGE, BIRMINGHAM.
[754

WILLCOX AND GIBBS'
SILENT
SEWING MACHINE.



MACHINES TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.
Machines on Hire.
T. S. TONGUE,
Sole Agent,
3, *BULL STREET,* BIRMINGHAM. [426

SLATER & CO.'S
LITTLE WONDER LOCK-STITCH SEWING MACHINES.
BOTH SIDES ALIKE. £3 3s.



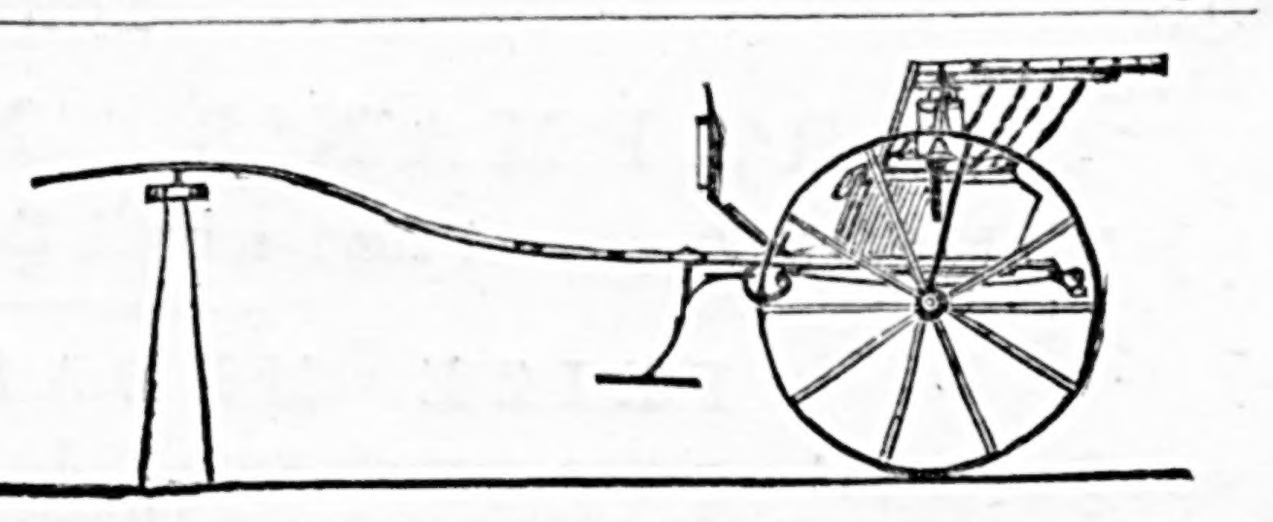
REDUCTION in PRICE of SEWING MACHINES, with all the latest Improvements. The Wheeler and Wilson's, £5 10s.; No 2 Howe's, £6 10s.; No. 2, Thomas's, £7; Patching Machines, for Repairing Old Boots, or general work, £8. Any other make repaired or altered. Second-hand Machines, £2. —N.B. Slater and Co.'s Manufactory, 18 and 19, Edmund Street, near the Town Hall. [36

JOHN NEILUS,
GENERAL DECORATOR.
5, *MOAT ROW SMITHFIELD,*
BIRMINGHAM.
Dealer in all kinds of Paper Hangings. [127

BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION · PRESENTED TO JOHN NEILUS BIRMINGHAM

PIESSE & LUBIN'S
CHEF D'ŒUVRE
"In peace love tunes the shepherd's reed,
In war he mounts the warrior's steed."
LOVE-LORNE
"Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,
E'en conquerors feel the power of love."
ATELIER DES FLEURS,
2, New Bond Street, London.

[125



FORDER AND CO.'S CELEBRATED LIGHT GIGS. Weight 3 cwt. In Stock; ready to take home with you.—CARRIAGE WORKS, WOLVERHAMPTON. [150

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15 Years Foreman to HOLLINGSWORTH & SCRUTON.
D. CRANE,
TROUSERS & HUNTING BREECHES MAKER,
82, *NEW STREET.* [132

PATENT METALLIC AIR-TIGHT COFFINS, combining all the advantages of Wood, Shell, and Lead and Oak Coffins, can be obtained *at once* on application to the Head Office of the
PATENT METALLIC AIR-TIGHT COFFIN COMPANY,
158, *GREAT CHARLES STREET*
BIRMINGHAM.
Prices, &c., sent post free. [503

PROTECTION FROM FIRE
BRYANT & MAY'S
TRADE SECURITY MARK
LIGHT ONLY ON THE BOX
TRADE SECURITY MARK
PATENT SAFETY MATCHES
THE PUBLIC ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST
DANGEROUS IMITATIONS
[410

THE BIRMINGHAM MOURNING AND FUNERAL WAREHOUSE.
42, *NEW STREET.*
EVERY description of MOURNING ATTIRE.
BLACK SILKS, IN THE GREATEST VARIETY.
SHOW ROOMS FOR MOURNING MILLINERY.
MANTLES AND DRESSMAKING.
Funerals efficiently and economically CONDUCTED in every part of the country.
BACH AND BARKER,
PROPRIETORS.
[675

USED IN HER MAJESTY'S KITCHEN,
Sold Everywhere.
YEATMANS
YEAST
POWDER.
In 1d., 2d., & 3d. packets, and 6d. canisters.
AND IN THE ARMY AND NAVY. [43
Sold in Family Packets at 1s., 2s. 6d., and 5s.

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR when light Wines, so acceptable in warm weather, give place to those possessing properties more suited to the temperature being at hand, we again have the pleasure of directing attention to our

DINNER SHERRY,
24s. PER DOZEN,

The extensive use of which is a proof of the estimation in which it is held, and is an additional incentive to renewed efforts to keep up the quality.

INNES, SMITH, AND COMPANY,
28, *HIGH STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [161

PALFREYS, 4, BULL RING, BIRMINGHAM.—JEWELLERS' and PAWNBROKERS' CELEBRATED WINDOW MARKS.

An Endless Variety for Stationers', Tobacconists', and Fancy Trades.
WINDOW
TICKETS
FOR ALL
TRADES
First-class Tickets for Birmingham and Sheffield Goods.
China and Glass Warehouses.
Grocers, Drapers, and Outfitters. The most effective and cheapest ever produced.
Largest variety in the World from 6d. the gross.
[138

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES REPOSITORY,
No 1, CHEAPSIDE, BIRMINGHAM.
MR. J. M. CLAYWORTH begs to inform Noblemen, Gentlemen, and the Public in general, that he will hold his next STUD SALES on
THURSDAY, January 5th; and on
THURSDAY, January 19th.
Sales by Auction every Thursday; by Private Treaty, Daily. [35

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS. —The Committee of the Birmingham Canal Company are prepared to RECEIVE OFFERS of LOANS, at Four per cent. per annum, for periods of three, five, or seven years, or to be repayable at six months' notice.

The Committee are also prepared to receive Applications for the issue at par of the Company's Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, to be inscribed on the Books of the Company in the names of applicants, free of all expense.

A Commission of ½ (one half) per cent. is allowed to applicants.

Any amount of Stock, not being a fraction of a pound, can be subscribed for and transferred.

Applications to be made to Mr. Robert Thomas, Clerk to the Company, at the Navigation Office, Paradise Street, Birmingham. [104

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS. —CONSOLIDATION OF SHARES INTO STOCK.—Notice is hereby given, that the TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 31st December, 1870, until the 7th January, 1871, for the purpose of preparing the necessary Stock Cupons.
ROBERT THOMAS, *Clerk to the Company.*
20th December, 1870. [172

J. AND L. MOLE,
OLD-ESTABLISHED WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
Beg to inform the Public that they ARE NOT CONNECTED with any other firm in New Street.
36, *NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM*
(Exactly opposite the Railway Station).
[191

CARPETS, CURTAINS, CABINET FURNITURE.
GEORGE DIACK, 212 and 213, OXFORD STREET, W., invites public attention to his Stock of Carpets, comprising all the manufactures for Dining-Rooms, Libraries, Drawing-Rooms, and Chambers; to a unique collection of Silk Fabrics from the most approved Factories of Lyons and Spitalfields.
CABINET FURNITURE OF FIRST-CLASS MAKE.
BEDSTEADS AND BEDDING SUITABLE FOR THE MANSION OR COTTAGE.
212 *and* 213, *OXFORD STREET, W.* [102

TOOTHACHE, HEADACHE, NEURALGIA. —HODGES "SOZODONTA" is the only certain Cure for Toothache without touching the Tooth. Headache and Neuralgia relieved immediately. Enclose 15 stamps. London Depôt, 4, Featherstone Buildings, Holborn.
AGENTS WANTED. [923

OZOKERIT---OZOKERIT
(PATENTED.)
The New and Beautiful Candles
made of this mineral will be found to far surpass any that have yet been introduced, possessing marvellous brilliancy of light, and burning to the end without bending, though placed in the hottest and most crowded rooms. They resemble in appearance the very whitest bleached beeswax, also in odour, whence the name, from the Greek *Ozo,* I smell of, and *Keros,* wax. They will be found a great boon and ornament to all

ASSEMBLY AND BALL ROOMS,

The intense heat and injury caused by the use of gas to gilding and pictures being avoided by their use. Their great hardness adapts them for all climates. To be had in all sizes 1s. 3d. per lb.

Order of your Chemist, Grocer or Chandler, and insist on using no others. The Patentees,

J. C. & J. FIELD,
UPPER MARSH, LAMBETH, LONDON,

Who supply the trade only, will be happy to answer any inquiry as to the nearest agency where these wonderful Candles can be obtained.

JOHN GOSNELL AND CO.'S CHERRY TOOTH PASTE is greatly superior to any Tooth Powder, gives the Teeth a pearl-like whiteness, protects the enamel from decay, and imparts a pleasing fragrance to the breath. Price 1s.6d. per pot. Angel Passage, 93, Upper Thames-street, London. [852

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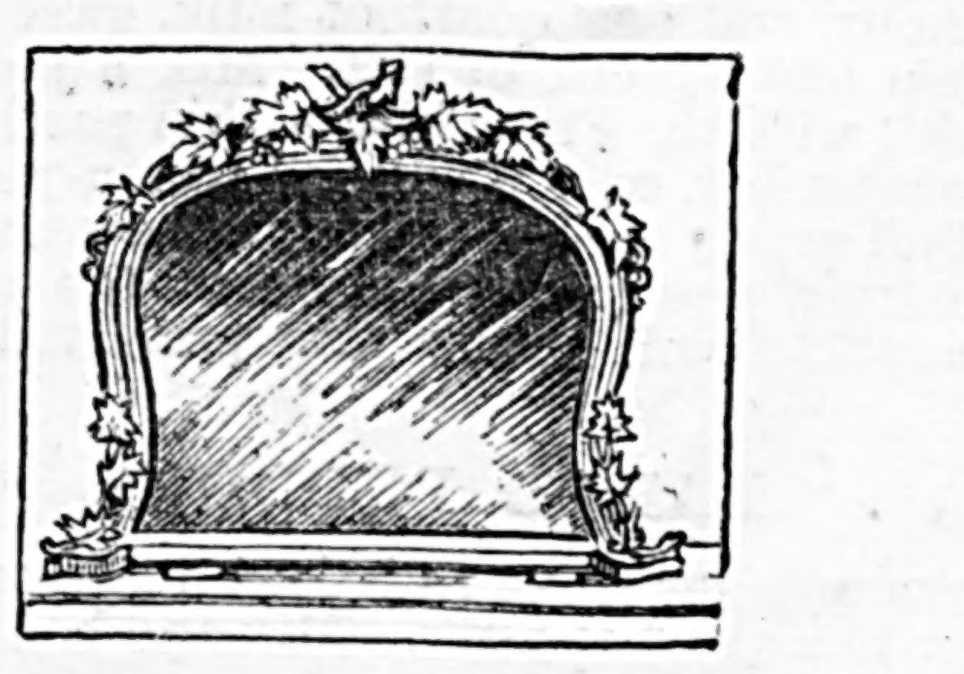
LOOKING GLASS MANUFACTURERS,



CARVERS & GILDERS
125, *BROMSGROVE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.*
[83

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA,

BRONCHITIS, and NEURALGIA,

THE GREAT REMEDY of the day is Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE; a few doses will cure all incipient cases. Caution—The extraordinary medical reports on the efficacy of Chlorodyne renders it of vital importance that the public should obtain the "genuine," which is now sold under the protection of Government authorising a stamp bearing the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne," without which none are genuine. See decision of Vice Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood, the *Times,* July 16, 1864. Sold in bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d., by all Chemists. Sole Manufacturer, J. T. DAVENPORT, 33, Great Russel Street, London, W.C.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. Extract from *Medical Times* January 12, 1866—"Is prescribed by scores of orthodox practitioners. Of course it would not be thus singularly popular did it not supply a want and fill a place."

From Lord Francis Conyngham, Mount Charles, Donegal, December 11, 1868.

"LORD FRANCIS CONYNGHAM, who this time last year bought some of Dr. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne from Mr. Davenport, and has found it a most powerful Medicine, will be glad to have half-a-dozen bottles sent at once to the above address."

SOLE MANUFACTURER, J. T. DAVENPORT,
33, *GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON.* [54

NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE.—AGUA AMARELLA restores the human hair to its pristine hue, no matter at what age. J. GOSNELL AND CO. have at length, with the aid of one of the most eminent chemists, succeeded in perfecting this wonderful liquid. It is now offered to the public in a more concentrated form, and at a lower price. Sold in bottles at 3s. each, also 5s., 7s. 6d., and 15s. each, including brush. [851

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COUNTRY LADIES AND LONDON FASHIONS.—The many advertisements of the day, addressed frequently to the inexperienced, whilst they appear to offer facilities, only perplex ladies residing at a distance from the metropolis; nay, all Londoners themselves.

To assist suburban and remote customers, Messrs. JAY transmit patterns by post, or otherwise, and ladies may rest assured that the specimens and the goods will literally agree; and that in dealing with the old-established firm of Messrs. JAY they will buy at as cheap a cost as in any shop in London.

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REGENT STREET

MESSRS. JAY have experienced Dressmakers and Milliners who act as Travellers, so that, in the event of immediate mourning being required, or any other sudden emergency for dress, one can be despatched to any part of the kingdom on receipt of letter or telegram, without any expense to the purchaser. All articles are marked in plain figures, and charges are the same as if the goods were bought for ready money at the warehouse in Regent Street.

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DRESSMAKING.	s.	d.
Making Dress, with plain Skirt	10	6
Making Dress with Tucks of Crape or Fancy Trimmings, from	14	6
Making Bodice and Mounting Skirt into band	7	6
Making Widow's Bodice, ditto, ditto	8	0
Mounting Skirt into Band, with Alpaca Pocket	1	6
Mounting ditto ditto, with Black Silk Pocket	2	6
Mounting ditto ditto, without Pocket	1	0
Silk Body Lining	5	6
Silk Sleeve Lining	3	6
Silk Low Body and Sleeve Lining	5	6
Lawn Body Lining	1	6
Sleeve Lining	1	0
Silk Facing	1	10½
Petersham Ribbon for Banding	0	8
Petersham Waistband, Covered Crape and Rosette	2	6
Making Garibaldi	6	0
Making Low Bodice	6	0
Sundries	1	6

Tucker, Braid, and Trimmings Extra.

THE
LONDON GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE,
247, 249, *and* 251, *REGENT STREET.*
JAYS'. [877

COMPANION TO THE SICK ROOM.—The QUEEN'S LAVENDER WATER, the most Fragrant, Refreshing, and Lasting of Perfumes. J. PROCTER (late Thonger and Gray), 104, Broad Street, Islington, Birmingham. [27

PIANOFORTES AND HARMONIUMS.

The Best of every Description, at very Moderate Charges,
For Sale or Hire, and on
"The Three Years' System."

HARRISON AND HARRISON,

COLMORE ROW AND BENNETT'S HILL,
BIRMINGHAM.

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All New Music as soon as Published, Half Price and Post Free. [117

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CHAPMAN'S IMPERIAL BLACK SILKS.

CHAPMAN'S IMPERIAL BLACK-SILKS WARRANTED
TRADE MARK.

The increasing demand for these unequalled goods and the testimonials continually received from all parts of the world have induced us to have our registered trade mark stamped upon each dress.

The prices vary from 3½ to 6 Guineas the full Robe of 12 yards, and

We hold ourselves responsible for the wear of every such Dress bearing our name.

MANUFACTURERS AND MERCERS, LONDON AND LYONS.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

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We have at the present time several thousand pounds' worth of these unrivalled Silks.

PRIZE MEDAL IRISH POPLINS.

Messrs. PIM BROS.' superior manufacture. JAMES CHAPMAN'S of Notting-hill, W., is the only house in England where you can obtain genuine IRISH POPLINS at £3 6s. the dress of 12 yards. [193

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Dividends 10 to 20 per Cent.

Read SHARP'S INVESTMENT CIRCULAR *(Post Free).*
(THIS MONTH'S NUMBER NOW READY.)

It contains all the best-paying and safest Stock and Share Investments of the day.

SHAREHOLDERS, INVESTORS, TRUSTEES, CAPITALISTS,
Will find the above Investment Circular a safe, valuable, and reliable Guide.

Messrs. SHARP & CO., Stock and Share Brokers, 33, Poultry, London, E.C. (Established 1852).
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, London, E.C. [419

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

EPPS'S COCOA.

BREAKFAST.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette.*

Made simply with boiling water or milk.

Sold only in ¼ lb., ½ lb., and 1 lb. tin-lined packets, labelled— [959
JAMES EPPS & CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

Established upwards of Half a Century.

MR. GABRIEL,

THE OLD-ESTABLISHED RESIDENT DENTIST,
Has Removed from 65, New Street, to
11, *BENNETT'S HILL,* 11,
(Next to the Bank of England),
WHERE HE IS IN DAILY ATTENDANCE FROM 9 a.m., UNTIL 6 p.m.

Single Teeth from 5s. Complete Set from £5.

N.B.—Only one Visit required from Country Patients.
Notice particularly Name and Address. [115

WIDE VELVETEENS, bright and soft as Silk. Sacrificed at 2s. 6d., usually sold at 4s. 6d. per yard. Patterns sent.

HARVEY & CO.,
LAMBETH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

FRENCH MERINOS.—FINEST Quality and Double Width, at 2s. per yard, in every Fashionable Colour and Black. It may be important for Ladies to know "That this is the last time of asking." All weavers in France are soldiers; manufacturing goods there is an affair of the past. Merino is made in no other country, and the price may be doubled during the winter. Help yourselves Ladies, while you may Patterns sent.

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NEW DRESSES and COSTUMES in Reps, Diagonals, and Satin Cloths, Made and Unmade. An immense variety, fresh, and in good taste, at 8s. 9d., 10s. 9d., and 12s. 9d. the full dress. The most approved and durable colours of the season are submitted, intended to give satisfaction.

HARVEY & CO.,
LAMBETH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE,
LONDON. [139

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.—The best remedy for acidity of the stomach, heart-burn, headache, gout, and indigestion, and the best mild aperient for delicate constitutions, especially adapted for ladies, children, and infants.

DINNEFORD and CO., 172, New Bond-street, London, and of all chemists. [581

ORIENTAL TOOTH PASTE, established by forty years' experience as the most effectual preservative of the Teeth and Gums. Sold universally, in pots at 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. each. None genuine unless signed Jewsbury & Brown, Manchester. [889

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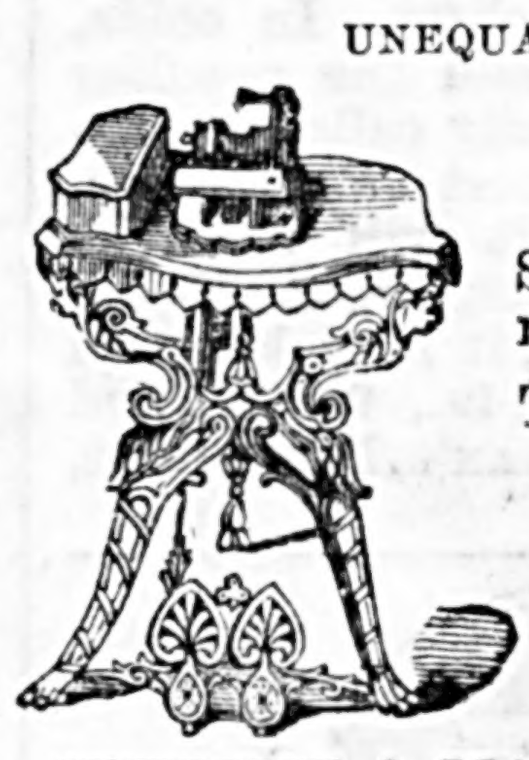
SEWING MACHINES,

UNEQUALLED FOR FAMILY USE.



THE ALBERTA SILENT LOCK-STITCH.

In Casket, complete, 5 gs. With Square Stand, 6 gs. With Ornamental Bronzed Stand, 6½ gs.

The Excelsior, Price with Stand from 6 gs.

Hand Machines, from 30s.

First-class Lock-Stitch, from 70s.

LISTS FREE. [181

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THE PATENT READING EASEL, for holding the Book at any height or angle over a bed, sofa, or easy chair, as used by H.R.H. Princess Louise, is invaluable to invalids, students, and aged persons. Admirably adapted for India. A most useful and elegant gift. Prices 20s. and 50s. each. Drawings post free.

J. M. CARTER, [167
55, MORTIMER STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.

Is unequalled for Blanc-Mange, Custards, Puddings, Cakes, Soups, &c., and is the most wholesome and easily digestible Food for Children and Invalids.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR

COLMAN'S

BRITISH CORN-FLOUR

Is to be obtained of all Grocers, in one-pound, half-pound, and quarter-pound packets.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

BLANC-MANGE.

Take four ounces (or four full-sized table-spoonfuls) of the Flour, and one quart of milk, sweetened to the taste, then add a pinch of salt. Mix a portion of the milk (cold) with the Flour into a thin paste; then add the remainder hot, with a piece of lemon-peel or cinnamon. Boil gently for eight to ten minutes, well stirring it all the time, and (after taking out the peel) pour it into a mould to cool. Serve with preserved fruit, jelly, &c.

BAKED PUDDING.

Three ounces (or three full-sized table-spoonfuls) of the Flour to a quart of milk. Mix and boil in the same manner as for Blanc-mange. When cool add two eggs, previously well-beaten, stir them well together, and bake for about half an hour.

INFANTS' FOOD.

Mix two full-sized tea-spoonfuls of the Flour with a little cold water into a paste. Add half a pint of hot milk and water, sweeten to the taste, and boil for about five minutes. To be used warm.

CUP-PUDDING FOR INFANTS.

Mix a full-sized dessert-spoonful of the Flour with half a pint of milk, a lump of sugar, and a pinch of salt. Boil for eight minutes (stirring it all the time), and then add one egg well beaten. Mix thoroughly, and pour into a buttered cup, tie up in a cloth, and again boil for about ten minutes. Serve it hot.

BOILED CUSTARD.

Take two full-sized table-spoonfuls of the Flour and a quart of milk, sweetened to the taste. Mix a little of the milk cold with the Flour; flavour it, and add two eggs, beaten up, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, a pinch of salt, and a small piece of butter. Add the remainder of the milk hot, and boil altogether for three minutes, stirring quickly.

CAKE.

Eight ounces of the Flour, three of butter, six of sugar, three eggs thoroughly well beaten, and a tea-spoonful of baking powder. Mix well, and bake in patty-tins.

OTHER WAYS OF USING THE FLOUR.

Prepared as ARROWROOT, it is excellent for invalids.

As GRUEL, prepare with milk in the ordinary way.

For CHILDREN, this Flour makes most nutritious and economical food.

For thickening SOUPS and GRAVIES it is very good.

For GRAVY JELLY, boil in water, mix with a little strong meat gravy, and put into a shape to cool.

As CORN-FLOUR CREAM, prepare in the usual way.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."
—*The Civil Service Gazette.*

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JAMES EPPS & CO., HOMŒOPATHIC CHEMISTS.

Epps's Cocoa is also prepared with Condensed Milk, and sold in tins, labelled "Epps's Milky Cocoa."

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